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WALT DISNEY'S COMICS

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MED. BY THE WOONSOCKET WINDSOCK CORP.
Dear Santa Wh. and Christmas Bowwow
I'll be for a very Merry Christmas
if you bring me a Heavy Chain and
a Heavy Collar

FLOYD GOTTFREDSON
Inductee into the
WILL EISNER COMIC INDUSTRY AWARDS
HALL OF FAME
2006
IN THIS ISSUE

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES

Happy holidays, readers! Gemstone is out to make your winter celebrations merrier—by decking the halls with a truly exciting mix of new stories this month, not to mention one long-awaited classic.

Those of you who've been following our "Orb Saga" serial will note the chapters' hitherto not-so-surprising character art choices. Catalan Disney man César Ferioli was an obvious pick to draw Goofy and the Phantom Blot, while longtime Spanish duck artist Tino Santanach handled the honors with Daisy. But Victor Arriagada Rios, Chile's celebrated "Vicar," drawing Mickey Mouse in this month's "War of the Wizards," is something else again!

First published in Europe in 1999, "Wizards" wasn't Vicar's first-ever crack at the Mouse. But it was the first time that this longtime Donald pundit got to draw Mickey in a major role. Perhaps not surprisingly, Vicar's Mouse is inspired less by the work of Floyd Gottfredson than by Carl Barks' one Mickeycentric comic, 1945's "Riddle of the Red Hat" (*Four Color* 79).

And all of you Gottfredson fans needn't feel left out. This issue we're proud to begin serializing "Mickey Mouse Joins the Foreign Legion," a prized 1936 adventure by the daily strip master. Ours is the first printing since 1941 to feature much of Gottfredson's original character dialogue; Abbeville Press' 1978 edition was relettered and, in several spots, rewritten and condensed.

Filling up our Yuletide stocking this month are Bill Van Horn's "Snow Job" and Pat and Carol McGreal's "Protector of Shambor," the long-awaited follow-up to their earlier Shambor sagas.

—David Gerstein

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Color: Egmont & Scott Rockwell

Gyro Gearloose **WAR OF THE WIZARDS The Orb Saga Part Five**
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Art: Vicar
Color: Egmont & Kneon Transitt
Lettering: Willie Schubert

Mickey Mouse **JOINS THE FOREIGN LEGION Part One**
Story: F. Gottfredson & T. Osborne
Art: F. Gottfredson & T. Thwaites (*KFS* 3/21-8/7/36)
Color: Scott Rockwell

The Phantom Blot **'TIS THE SEASON TO BE WICKED The Orb Saga Part Six**
Story: Pat & Carol McGreal
Art: Francisco Rodriguez Peinado
Color: Egmont & Marie Javins
Lettering: Jon Babcock

Mickey Mouse **THE PROTECTOR OF SHAMBOR Part One**
Story: Pat & Carol McGreal
Art: César Ferioli
Color: Kneon Transitt
Lettering: Susie Lee

Donald Duck **FEUD OF LIGHTS**
Story: John Lustig
Art: Francisco Sabaté Montero
Color: Egmont & Michael Kraiger
Lettering: Jon Babcock

Front cover art by Walt Kelly, color by Susan Daigle-Leach

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WALT DISNEY'S DONALD DUCK

• SNOW JOB •

A MYSTERY HAS ENGULFED DUCKBURG! WHO OR WHAT IS THE MYSTERIOUS PHANTOM SNOWBALLER? AN ENTITY THAT RANDOMLY PELTS ONE AND ALL WITH BIG, SQUISHY SNOWBALLS, THEN VANISHES WITHOUT A TRACE!

SPLAT

D 2005-128

NO ONE IS SAFE FROM THE SUDDEN STEALTHY ATTACKS!

SPLAT

SPLAT

NOT EVEN HIZZONER, THE MAYOR!

MY FELLOW—

SPLAT

BUT PERHAPS THINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE!

PHANTOM MY FOOT! I'LL BET ANYTHING THAT IT'S SOMEONE LIKE—

SPLAT

AHA! AND SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, THERE HE IS **NOW**!

JONES!

YEAH, WHAT'S UP, SHOVELFACE?

DON EXPLAINS WHAT'S UP!

U' DON'T SAY! AND DID YOU **SEE** ME THROW A SNOWBALL, DUCKO?

WELL, NOT EXACTLY!

RIGHT! BECAUSE I **DIDN'T**! ALTHOUGH IN YOUR CASE I'LL ADMIT IT AIN'T A BAD IDEA!

SOON-

IMAGINE THE NERVE OF THAT DISMAL DUCK! I HAVE A GOOD MIND TO-

SPLAT

WHAT THE DUMBDOODLE?

YOU!

ME **WHAT?**

DON'T TRY TO FOX ME, QUACKBRAIN! YOU JUST HIT ME WITH A **SNOWBALL!**

YEAH? ME AND WHO ELSE? I'VE GOT AN ARMLOAD OF GROCERIES, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!

PRETTY CLEVER COVER, DUCKY BOY, BUT I AIN'T SO SURE YOU AIN'T THE PHANTOM SNOWBALLER!

YEAH? WELL THAT GOES DITTO FOR YOU, BEETLE-BROW!

AND SO-

I'M GOING TO KEEP MY EYE ON OLD JONESY FOR AWHILE! AH, THERE HE IS NOW!

LUCKILY THE BOYS ARE AWAY AT A JUNIOR WOODCHUCK WINTER TREK! I CAN COME AND GO AS I PLEASE!

IF HE **IS** THE PHANTOM, AND I THINK HE IS, I'LL NAIL HIM FOR SURE!

I GOTTA KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR THAT DUCK! I'D BET MY LEFT SHOE HE'S THE PHANTOM, AND IF HE **IS** . . . HEH HEH HEH!

UH, OH! HE MUST HAVE TURNED THE CORNER! I BET HE'S LAYING IN WAIT TO **ATTACK** SOMEONE!

I'LL JUST PRANCE AROUND THE CORNER ALL INNOCENT-LIKE AND WHEN JONES SNOWBALLS ME, I'LL HAVE HIM **COLD!**

SMUSH

HMM! NOW HE'S TRASHING SNOWMEN! IT LOOKS LIKE OUR LITTLE PHANTOM IS BRANCHING OUT A BIT!

DOGGONE STUPID PLACE TO BUILD A SHOWMAN! AND JONES IS GONE TO BOOT!

OH, WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS **TOMORROW!**

INDEED THERE IS, AND HOW!

WOW! OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE GOT HIT BY THE PHANTOM LAST NIGHT! SO JONESY HAS GONE **NOCTURNAL**, EH?

DAILY BLA
PHANTOM STRIKES AGAIN

THEN TONIGHT I'LL BE READY FOR HIM!

NIGHT! AND DONALD ISN'T THE ONLY ONE ON THE HUNT!

THERE HE GOES, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! HE'S MOVING LIKE HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING! PROBABLY A **TARGET!**

NO SIGN OF JONES! HIS HOUSE IS DARK! WHICH MEANS HE'S ON THE **PROWL!**

IF I WERE THE PHANTOM, I'D MAKE A BEE-LINE FOR CACOPHONY HALL! THERE'S A CONCERT THERE TONIGHT AND THERE'LL BE **TONS** OF TOP HAT TARGETS TO CHOOSE FROM!

AHA! HE'S ON THE RUN! DUCKY BOY, YOU'RE AS GOOD AS **CAUGHT!**

BUT-

HUH! THAT'S FUNNY! HE'S OUTTA SIGHT ALREADY! DID HE DUCK INTO AN ALLEY, OR WHAT?

NO SIGN OF HIM THAT I CAN SEE!

SPLAT

OKAY YOU TIN-HORN, WEB-FOOTED SNEAK IN THE SNOW! COME OUT AND FIGHT LIKE A **MAN!**

HOLLERING! IT'S JONES! I'D KNOW THAT BELLOW ANYWHERE!

OLD STEALTHY IS SURE BLOWING HIS COOL! IT CAME FROM THIS ALLEY!

CLONK

THE JIG IS UP, MISTER PHANTOM!

ME? I'M NOT THE PHANTOM, YOU ARE!

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING? I'VE GOTCHA, AIN'T I?

AND I'VE GOT YOU!

WELL IF YOU AIN'T THE PHANTOM, AND I AIN'T THE PHANTOM, THEN WHO-

SPLAT

SPLAT

WELL I'LL BE BLITZED! WE BOTH GOT IT AT ONCE!

WHICH MEANS, DONALD OLD PAL, I OWE YOU AN **APOLOGY!**

AS I DO YOU, JONESY OLD BUDDY!

MAYBE IF WE-

EEK!

HEY!

YELP!

THAT'S COMING FROM THE STREET!

WHOA! AND LOOK! SOMEBODY'S RUNNING THIS WAY!

IT'S THE PHANTOM! IT'S GOTTA BE!

GET READY TO GRAB HIM! HE'S MOVIN' FAST!

OOF!

LET ME GO! IT'S ESCAPING AGAIN!

OH NO YOU DON'T, BUDDY BOY! YOU'RE CAUGHT!

NOW LET'S SEE WHO— GYRO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

I DON'T EITHER!

YOU'RE THE PHANTOM?

WELL, NOT EXACTLY! I MEAN I AM IN A WAY, BUT I'M **NOT**, TOO!

COME AGAIN?

HAVE YOU FLIPPED YOUR LID, OR SOMETHING?

NO . . .

. . . BUT **THAT** HAS!

IT'S A U.F.O.!

MARTIANS! WE'RE BEIN' INVADED! RUN!

HANG ON, GUYS!

IT'S ONLY MY FLYING SNOW CANNON! AND IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, IT'S ABOUT TO LAUNCH!

DUCK!

VOOP VOOP VOOP

BWOING

HA! HA! GOTCHA AT LAST!

SPLAT SPLAT

CRIMINEY! THE THING IS HAVING A CLASS "A" FIT!

HELP ME HOLD IT DOWN, AND I'LL **DEACTIVATE** IT!

VOOP VOOP VOOP

THERE! PHEW! THANKS, FELLOWS! YOU'VE SAVED DUCKBURG AND ME A **LOT** OF FURTHER GRIEF!

CLICK

WHY ON EARTH DID YOU **INVENT** SUCH A THING, GYRO?

WERE YOU HAVING A SLOW WEEK OR SOMETHING?

IT'S LIKE THIS! EVERY WINTER I GET PELTED WITH SNOWBALLS BY KIDS AND EVEN OLDER PEOPLE WHO OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER!

SO?

SO I GOT TIRED OF IT! I DECIDED TO **DO** SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

YOU MEAN...

YEP! I INVENTED MY FLYING SNOW CANNON AS A KIND OF GUARD DOG! SOMEONE HITS ME WITH A SNOWBALL-THE CANNON HONES IN ON THEM AT A DISTANCE- AND **POW!**

A DOSE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE!

YOU GOT IT! UNFORTUNATELY THE CANNON BLEW A FUSE A WEEK AGO, AND IT'S BEEN RUNNING AMOK EVER SINCE!

THE BIG DUCKBURG MYSTERY IS **SOLVED!**

WHICH REMINDS ME, WHY A **MYSTERY**? WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND TELL EVERYONE WHAT WAS HAPPENING?

IT WAS TOO EMBARRASSING! BESIDES, I THOUGHT I COULD CATCH IT QUICKLY!

YOU INVENTED TOO WELL!

YES, AND PLEASE, I HAVE A VERY **BIG FAVOR** TO ASK OF YOU BOTH!

YEAH, **WHAT?**

LET'S KEEP THE MYSTERY A MYSTERY, OKAY? OTHERWISE I'LL BE UNDER AN AVALANCHE OF SNOWBALLS FOR THE REST OF WINTER!

WELL...

SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE OUGHT TO KNOW!

FIDDLESTICKS! TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! IN A WEEKS TIME THEY'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT IT!

AND SO IT PROVED TO BE -

FOR WITHIN MERE DAYS THE PEOPLE OF DUCKBURG WERE WONDERING WHO OR WHAT WAS CHEWING UP HUNDREDS OF THEIR MORNING PAPERS!

DO YOU SUPPOSE...

NAH! GYRO WAS SO SHOOK UP OVER WHAT HAPPENED, HE MADE AN ABSOLUTELY **AMAZING** PROMISE!

REALLY?

WHAT?

HE SAID HE ISN'T GOING TO INVENT ANYTHING FOR A **WHOLE MONTH!**

Walt Disney's

GYRO GEARLOOSE

WAR OF THE WIZARDS in

PART 5 OF THE ORB SAGA

GYRO GEARLOOSE HAS LEARNED IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO VIDEOTAPE HIS EXPERIMENTS! THAT WAY HE CAN ALWAYS REVIEW A PROBLEM IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG!

TAPE IS ROLLING! NOW TO WORK! DAISY DUCK AND MINNIE MOUSE ASKED ME TO EXAMINE THOSE MYSTERIOUS *ORBS* AND SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY'RE ALL ABOUT!

THE OBJECTS WERE *GIFTS* TO THE GIRLS FROM THEIR *BOYFRIENDS*, DONALD AND MICKEY!

THE BOYS FOUND THE ORBS DURING INDEPENDENT, UNRELATED ADVENTURES ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE WORLD!

"ONE OF THE ORBS WAS DISCOVERED IN THE SEETHING VOLCANIC CRATER OF MT. VESUVIUS..."

"...AND THE OTHER BURIED DEEP IN GLACIAL ICE ATOP THE MOUNTAINS OF YUBET!"

THE *WEIRD* THING IS THE ORBS SEEM TO HAVE MINDS OF THEIR OWN! THEY KEEP TRYING TO FIND THEIR WAY *BACK* TO MICKEY AND DONALD!

I'VE TRIED FREEZING THEM WITHOUT RESULT! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I HEAT THEM UP!... ⟩HUMPH!⟨ NOTHING!

FZZT!

⟩AWP!⟨ I'D HOPED SAWING THEM IN HALF WOULD REVEAL THEIR INNER MECHANISM! BUT MY HACKSAW BLADE BROKE ON THEIR SURFACE!

GRRR! EVEN A JACKHAMMER CAN'T PENETRATE THESE PESKY SPHERES! I'M AT MY WITS' END!

RAT-A-TAT-TAT!

WHAT'S THAT? A TUNING FORK? I DON'T SEE WHAT GOOD THAT WILL DO... OH, WELL! WHY NOT?!

OKAY! I'M HOLDING THE VIBRATING TUNING FORK CLOSE TO THE ORBS! BUT I STILL DON'T...

MMMMM

HOLD THE PHONE! THE ORBS ARE STARTING TO RESPOND WITH SYMPATHETIC VIBRATIONS! LIKE A FEED-BACK LOOP!

GREAT TESLA'S COILS! THE BAFFLING BALLS ARE RISING INTO THE AIR! SPIRALLING AROUND EACH OTHER! ⟩ULP!⟨ WHAT NEXT?

ARE MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON ME? BETWEEN THE WHIRLING BLUR OF THE SPINNING ORBS, AN IMAGE IS UNFOLDING!

IT'S AN EARLY *COLONIAL* LANDSCAPE! A LITTLE VILLAGE NESTLED AGAINST A MOUNTAIN!

"WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S MOUNT DUCKBURG! BUT *LONG* AGO!"

"ALL THESE CITIZENS ARE GATHERED AROUND A BONFIRE! I WONDER WHY?"

IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL THE STROKE OF *MIDNIGHT*, SQUIRE! SOON WE'LL RING OUT THE YEAR *1706* AND WELCOME THE YEAR *1707*!

AMAZING! IT'S A NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY! I'M WITNESSING A CRUDE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION BACK IN COLONIAL TIMES!

WHILE WE WAIT, GOOD PEOPLE, ENJOY MY *ACROBATS* STRAIGHT FROM LONDON! OYEZ! OYEZ!

WOW! THOSE ACROBATS ARE REALLY SOMETHING, DONALDO!

NO BIG DEAL, MICHAEL! I COULD TUMBLE *RINGS* AROUND 'EM IF I WANTED TO!

"THAT DUCK! THAT MOUSE! THEY MUST BE THE REMOTE ANCESTORS OF DONALD AND MICKEY!"

JEEPERS! LOOK AT THOSE GUYS GO!

HUP!

HUP!

ALLEZ...

..OOOOOP!!!

HUZZAH!

SO YOU CAN TUMBLE RINGS AROUND THEM! HAH!

WELL, MAYBE NOT...

BUT IF YOU AND I COULD DO STUNTS LIKE THAT, WE'D BE TRAVELING ALL OVER THE LAND!

GOSH! THAT WOULD BE SWELL!

I THINK YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING, DONALDO! THE SOONER WE BLOW THIS BORING BURG, THE BETTER! C'MON!

HUH? WHERE ARE WE GOING, MICHAEL?

TO FIND A SPOT WHERE WE CAN PRACTICE! BY THE TIME THE OLD YEAR ENDS AND THE NEW ONE BEGINS, WE'LL BE MICHAEL AND DONALDO—MASTER ACROBATS!

THAT'S IT, DONALDO! NOW FLIP! TUMBLE! DO *SOME-THING!*

I CAN'T! I'M *SLIP-PING!* AND SO ARE *YOU!*

→MMPH!← WHAT WENT WRONG?

I'LL TELL YOU AS SOON AS YOU TAKE YOUR FOOT OUT OF MY TAILFEATHERS!

THE *PROBLEM* IS WE HAD NO *MOMENTUM!* WE NEED A *THIRD* PERSON FOR THIS STUNT!

WELL, LET'S THINK OF ANOTHER ROUTINE!

THEN WE CAN HIT THE ROAD AND FINALLY HAVE SOME *ADVENTURES!*

YEAH, NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS AROUND *HERE!*

BAAA-

BOOOOOOOM!

LOOK OUT! INCOMING!

WHUUUMP!!

DONALDO! DUCK!

OOOOO! THAT LAST BLAST PACKED A BIGGER WALLOP THAN I EXPECTED! I'M SEEING STARS!

BIG DUH! IT'S NIGHT!

WHO ARE YOU, OLD FELLOW?

I AM DARFELD THE DRUID! PRACTITIONER OF WHITE MAGICKS EXTRAORDINAIRE!

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A GOOD WIZARD?

CORRECT! AND I AM IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE WITH THE EVIL SORCERER, MERINGUE THE MALEVOLENT!

HE IS ATOP YONDER MOUNT HATCHING A MONSTROUS *PLOT!* HE WAS ANGERED BY THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS, AND VOWS VENGEANCE ON THE *WHOLE WORLD!*

WELL, EVEN THOUGH MERINGUE MAY BE MORE POWERFUL THAN I, I AM *DETERMINED* TO OPPOSE HIM TO THE BITTER END!

ARE YOU THINKING WHAT *I'M* THINKING?

YOU BET! WE KNOW AN *ADVENTURE* WHEN WE SEE ONE! FOLLOW THAT WIZARD!

THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I WAS THINKING!

LOOK...MAYBE WE'RE BEING HASTY! VILLAGE LIFE ISN'T SO BAD!

SHHH! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

OMIGOSH! LOOK AT WHAT DARFELD IS GOING UP UP AGAINST!

ULP! THAT CAN ONLY BE...

MERINGUE THE MALEVOLENT! I'LL STOP YOU YET!

YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME! THE HOUR IS ALMOST HERE! THE *NEW YEAR* IS AT HAND!

AT MIDNIGHT—WHEN INVISIBLE, ELEMENTAL FORCES ARE AT THEIR ZENITH—THESE SPHERES I FORGED FROM THE MOUNTAIN'S MYSTIC METALS WILL MELD INTO ONE!

THEY WILL MAGICALLY REFASHION THEMSELVES INTO AN *INVINCIBLE* SCEPTER OF POWER!

HOLY CANNOLI! THE ORNERY *ORBS!*

AND THE POWER WILL BE *MINE!* I WILL CONTROL THE KNOWN WORLD...NEW ENGLAND, OLD ENGLAND, AND WHATEVER ELSE IS OUT THERE!

JUMPING JELLY ON TOAST!

WE'RE JUST FLAT-BROKE FARMERS, MIKE! THERE'S NOTHING *WE* CAN DO AGAINST *THAT!*

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH YOUR NEFARIOUS SCHEME, MERINGUE!

HAH! DO YOUR WORST, YOU CREAKING CODGER!

MY, MY! THAT CERTAINLY *IS* THE WORST! THE SANDS IN THE HOURGLASS ARE RUNNING OUT, DARFELD!

HURFF!

WE'VE GOT TO BREAK THAT BIG PALOOKA'S CONCENTRATION SO HE CAN'T MAINTAIN HIS SPELL SURROUNDING THE ORBS!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA! YOU KNOW HOW WE NEED A ***THIRD*** PARTY FOR OUR ACROBATIC ACT?

MICHAEL, YOU SLY LITTLE RODENT!

NGH... I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ***DEFEAT*** YOU, MERINGUE, BUT I'LL ***NEVER*** STOP TRYING!

COME AHEAD, DODDERING DOLT! YOU ***AMUSE*** ME!

GOOD! MERINGUE IS TOO BUSY BEING SMUG TO NOTICE WHAT I'M UP TO!

OKAY! I'M IN POSITION! NOW ***WHERE'S*** DONALDO?! THAT FEATHERBRAIN BETTER NOT LEAVE ME HANGING HERE!

YEEEE-HAH!

WHAT?

THERE HE IS! RIGHT ON THE MONEY! SHAME ON ME FOR DOUBTING HIM!

GET OFF ME, YOU CLOD!

GRAB MY HANDS, DONALDO! OUR NEW "PARTNER" OUGHT TO GIVE US ALL THE MOMENTUM WE NEED!

HUP! HUP!

ALLEZ...

AAAIIEEE!!

OOOP!!

WHOOOOA!

TAH-DAH!

THAT'S THE WAY TO STICK A DISMOUNT!

UHH-OOOF!

GRRR! I'LL MAKE PENNY SWEETMEATS OUT OF YOU!

WHILE YOU LEAVE YOUR PRECIOUS ORBS *UNGUARDED*, EH? AT LAST I CAN LET LOOSE WITH A *DOOZY* OF A SPELL!

A SPELL DESIGNED TO CAST THE ORBS TO *OPPOSITE* ENDS OF THE *EARTH!*

NO!!

ONE TO BE LOST IN FIRE! ONE TO BE BURIED IN ICE! AND JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME! THE LAST GRAIN OF SAND FALLS IN THE HOURGLASS! *THE NEW YEAR ITOT DAWNS!*

YOU'VE WON THE BATTLE, DARFELD, BUT NOT THE WAR! I'LL CAST A SPELL OF MY OWN!

IN THE YEAR *2006*—JUST BEFORE ANOTHER NEW YEAR THREE *CENTURIES* FROM NOW, THE ORBS WILL COME TOGETHER AGAIN!

THEN *HERE'S* MY COUNTERSPELL! THE ORBS WILL BE DRAWN *TOGETHER*, ALL RIGHT...

BUT THEY WILL BE DRAWN TO *GOOD-HEARTED* SOULS WHO WILL *PROTECT* THEM! THE *DESCENDANTS* OF MY FRIENDS MICHAEL AND DONALDO!

HAH! THAT WON'T HELP, OLD MAN! I'LL RETREAT INTO THE MOUNTAIN AND *WAIT* THE THREE HUNDRED YEARS!

RRRAACK!

THEN, SHORTLY BEFORE THE CLOSE OF 2006, I WILL EMERGE AND TAKE MY ORBS FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE INEPT FARMERS!

I'LL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH MY PLAN ONCE AND FOR ALL! THE WORLD BE *MINE!* *HA-HA-HAAH!*

HIS MAGICK IS TOO STRONG! I CAN'T FOLLOW HIM!

RRRUNG!

MAYBE YOU'D BETTER CAST *ONE* MORE SPELL, SIR!

GIVING THE ORBS THE POWER TO TELL THIS STORY SO OUR DESCENDANTS WILL KNOW WHAT MERINGUE IS UP TO!

GOOD IDEA, BOYS!

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THE ORBS ARE ATTRACTED TO MICKEY AND DONALD! MY FRIENDS ARE SUPPOSED TO STOP THAT EVIL SORCERER FROM FULFILLING HIS SCHEME!

BUT THE NEW YEAR IS JUST A FEW WEEKS AWAY! MERINGUE COULD EMERGE FROM THAT MOUNTAIN AT ANY MOMENT!

NO TIME TO WARN DONALD AND MICKEY! I'LL HAVE TO LOCK THE ORBS IN MY LAB SAFE AND SEE WHAT I CAN DO MYSELF!

SHORTLY, ON THE SLOPES OF MOUNT DUCKBURG!

I'M SURE MY HI-TECH EQUIPMENT CAN CREATE A MAGNETIC FIELD THAT WILL SEAL OFF THE MOUNTAIN!

AFTER ALL, PURE SCIENCE IS CERTAINLY STRONGER THAN SILLY MAGIC SPE—OH, DEAR! WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

H.H.?.?.?.U MBLE!!!

KAAA-RAACK!

GOODNESS GRACIOUS! THE VERY EARTH IS SPLITTING! AM I TOO LATE?

÷ULP!÷ IT'S HIM! MUH-MUH-MERINGUE THE MALEVOLENT!

MAYBE I CAN STUN HIM WITH A HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE!

WHAT'S THIS? A PEASANT BRANDISHING STRANGE WEAPONS!

SIGH! I HAVE NO TIME FOR SUCH TRIVIAL DISTRACTIONS!

YIPE! HIS MAGIC! IT'S SHORT-CIRCUITING ALL OF MY DELICATE EQUIPMENT!

ZZZZT!

HEAR ME, LOW BORN ONE! MY SPELL IS IRRESISTIBLE! YOU WILL *NOT* REMEMBER ME! YOU WILL HAVE *NO* MEMORY OF ME AT ALL!

GLEEP!

NOW TO RETRIEVE MY ORBS FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE FILTHY LOUTS! HMMM! I WONDER IF THE WORLD CHANGED MUCH WHILE I WAS AWAY?

OH DEAR! I MUST'VE GONE OUT FOR A WALK... CAN'T SEEM TO... OH MY... WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY EQUIPMENT?

AND SO...

DRAT! I CAN'T ESCAPE THE FEELING THERE'S *SOMETHING* I'M SUPPOSED TO DO! GET A NEW TOOTHBRUSH, MAYBE?

OH, WELL! WHATEVER IT IS, IT CAN'T BE *TOO* IMPORTANT!

to be continued

GEMSTONE PUBLISHING PRESENTS

More DuckTales

before they were DuckTales by Carl Barks VOLUME 2

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We knew how much you would enjoy the works of Carl Barks in our first presentation of his "*duck tales before they were DuckTales*," so we've assembled a second volume containing the remaining Barks stories that were adapted into *DuckTales* cartoons! Yes, more of your favorite duck characters along with an array of appearances by various villains.

Here's what you can expect:

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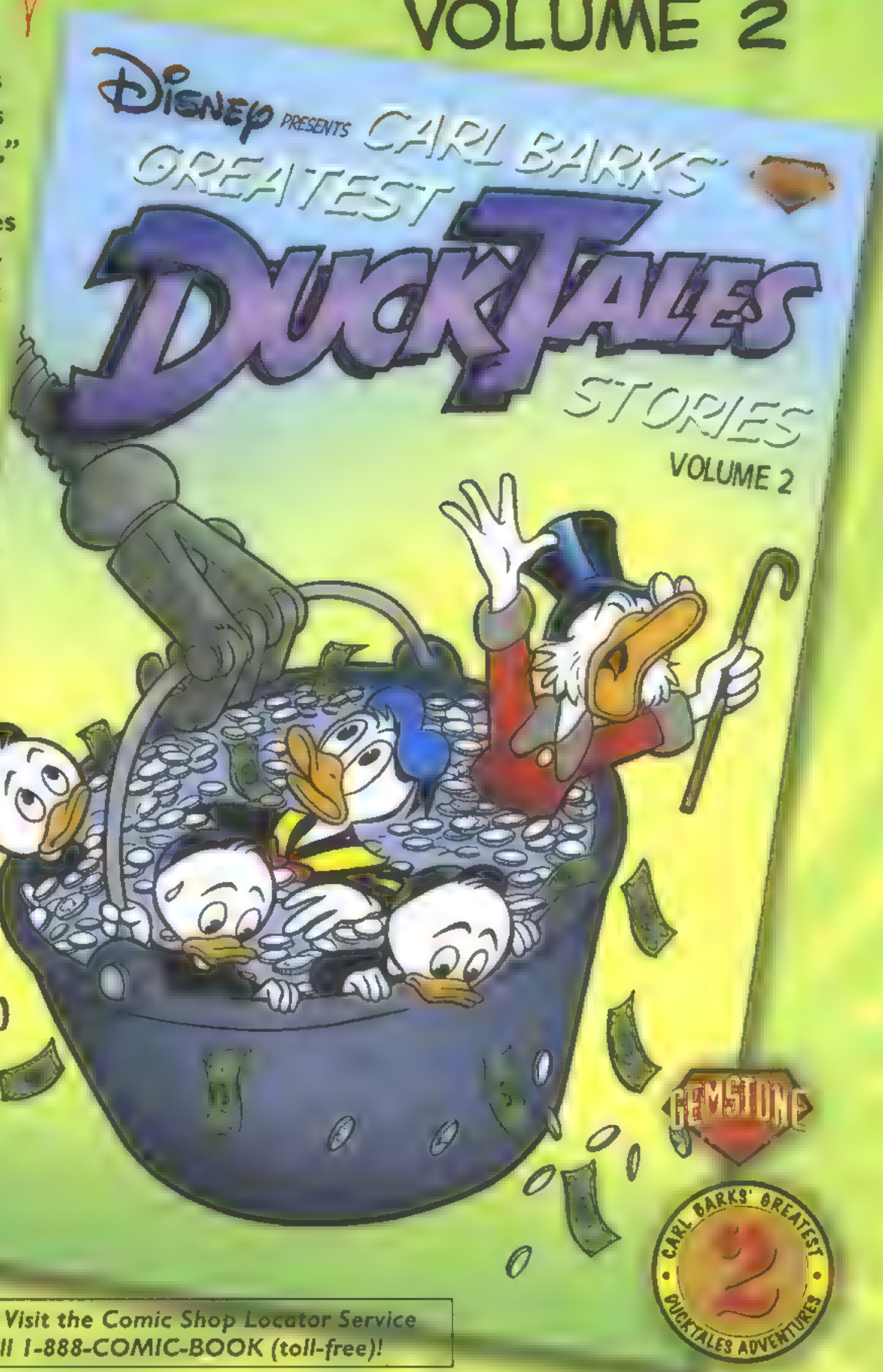
- Travel along with Scrooge as he searches for glittering wool in "The Golden Fleecing"
- Discover every kind of diamond imaginable (Carl Barks kind of imaginable) in "The Status Seeker"
- The Beagle Boys are at it again, this time taking on "The Unsafe Safe"
- What? Someone else after Scrooge's money in "The Horseradish Story"?
- "Giant Robot Robbers" run wild in Duckburg with one particular Money Bin in their sights!

Enjoy!



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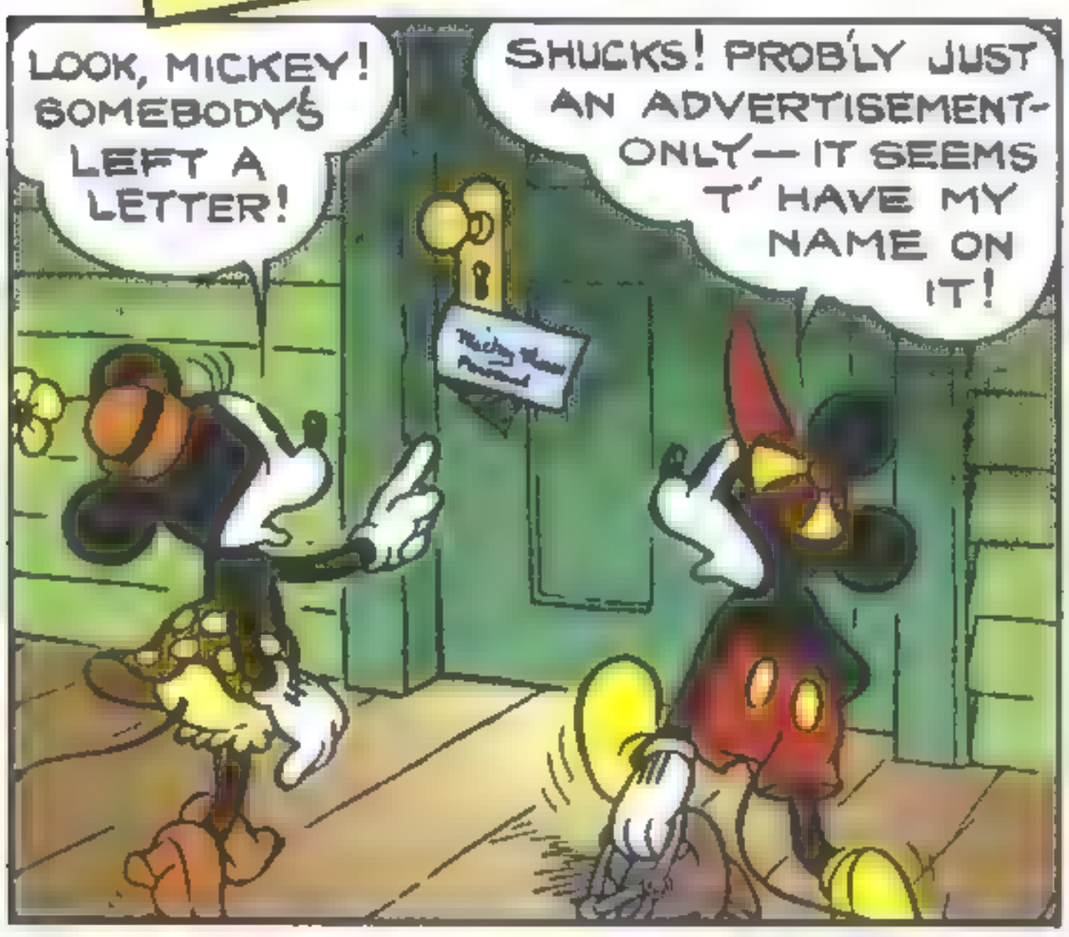
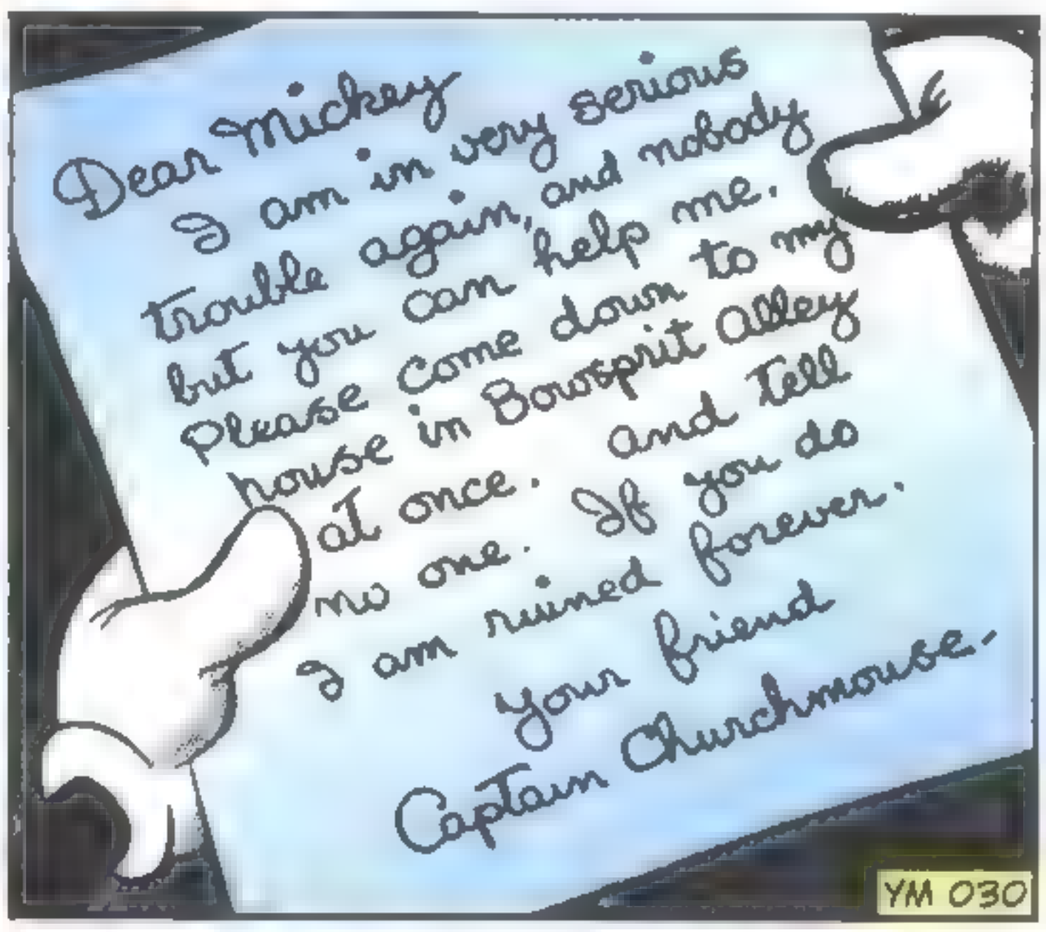
WALT DISNEY'S

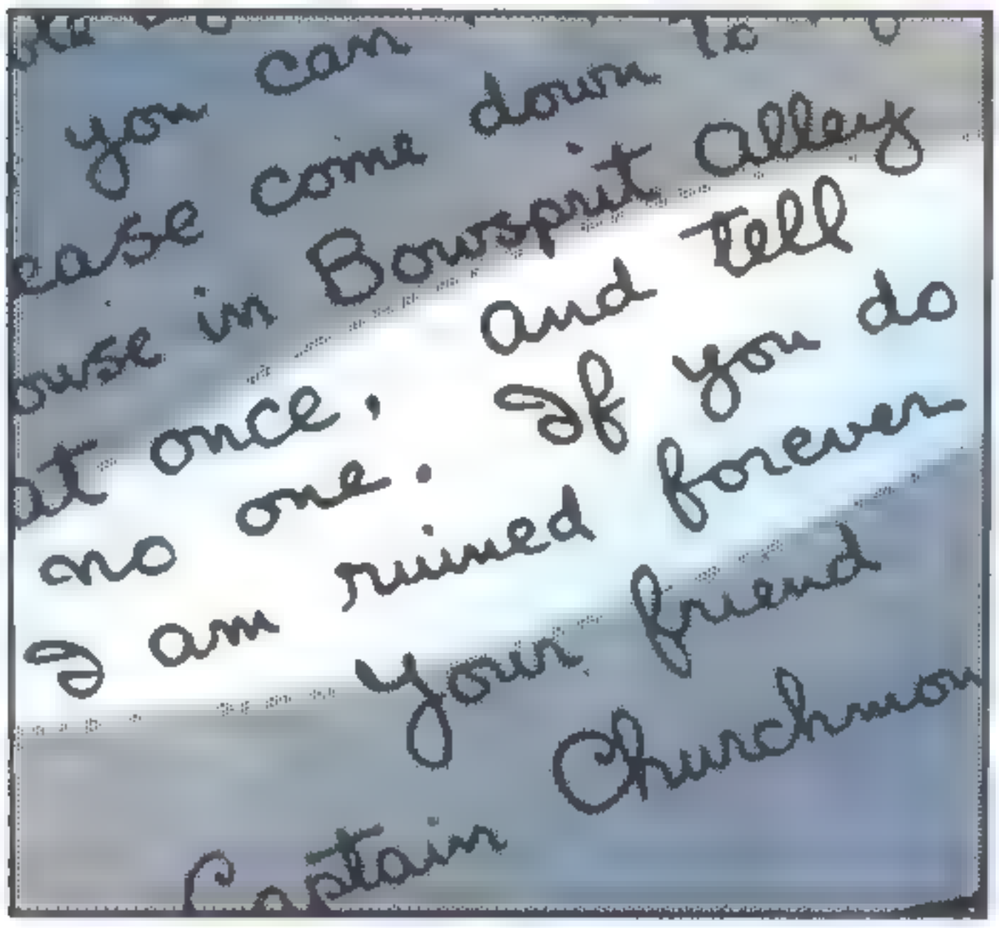
MICKEY MOUSE JOINS THE FOREIGN LEGION!

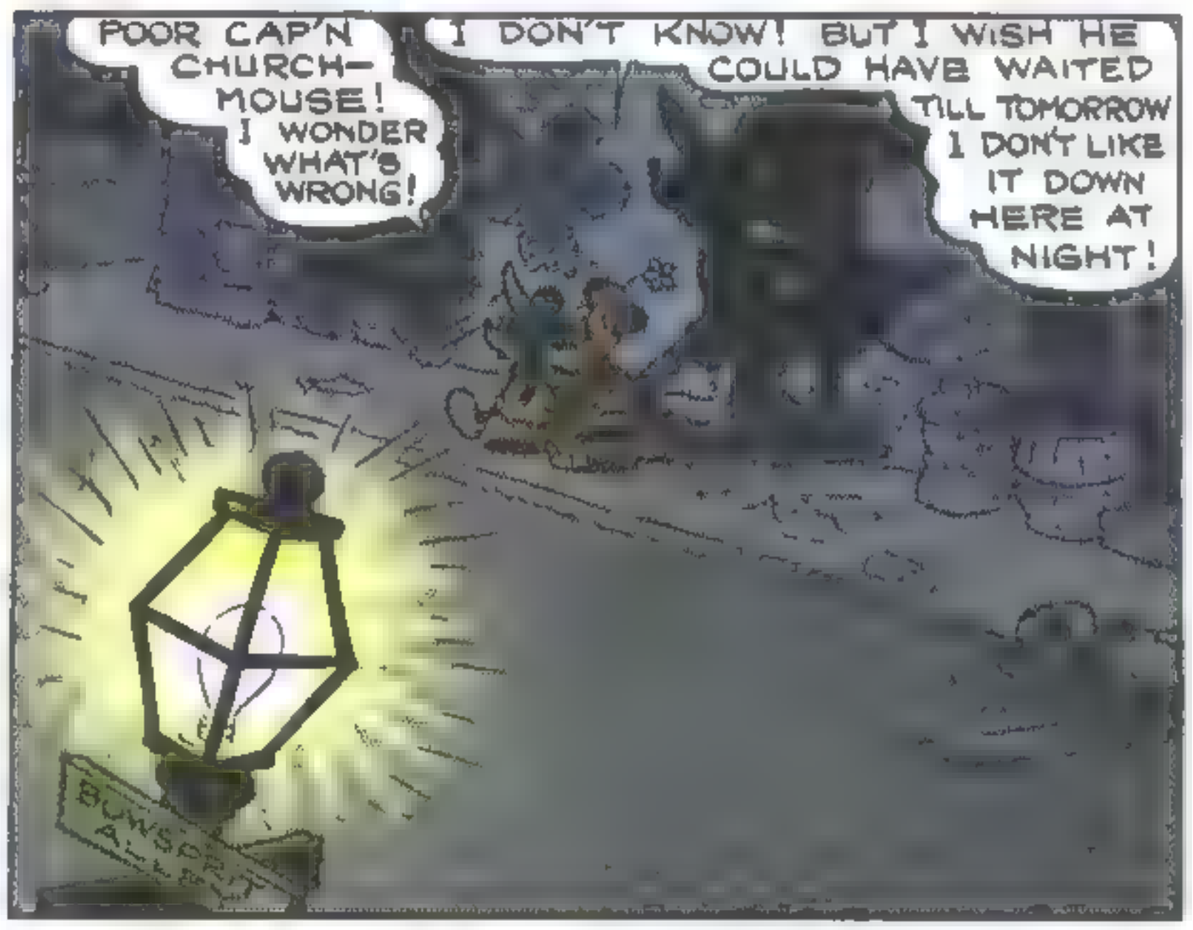
PART II OF 4

MICKEY MOUSE LOVES LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE... BUT HE RARELY EXPECTS IT TO COME LOOKING FOR HIM! THAT'S JUST WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN, THOUGH, ON THIS MISTY, MOISTY EVENING...




Dear Mickey
I am in very serious trouble again, and nobody but you can help me. Please come down to my house in Bowsprit Alley at once. And tell no one. If you do I am ruined forever.
Your friend
Captain Churchmouse.
YM 030




POOR CAP'N CHURCH- MOUSE! I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG!
I DON'T KNOW! BUT I WISH HE COULD HAVE WAITED TILL TOMORROW I DON'T LIKE IT DOWN HERE AT NIGHT!
BOWSPRIT

IT'S FUNNY CAP'N CHURCHMOUSE DOESN'T ANSWER! FROM HIS LETTER, HE SURE MUSTA WANTED T' SEE ME!

I CAN'T EVEN SEE A LIGHT!

MINNIE! LOOK! TH'— TH' HOUSE SEEMS T' BE VACANT!

WE'LL STOP IN NEXT DOOR AN' SEE IF THEY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHERE HE IS!

THE CHURCHMOUSE'S? LAN' SAKES, THEY BEEN AWAY FOUR MONTHS OR SO! SAILED ON A LONG VOYAGE SOMEWHERES, I THINK!

HAVING RECEIVED AN URGENT LETTER FROM CAPTAIN CHURCHMOUSE, MICKEY AND MINNIE INVESTIGATE— AND FIND HIS HOUSE HAS BEEN VACANT FOR MONTHS!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! IF TH' CAPTAIN DIDN'T WRITE THAT NOTE, WHO DID? AN' WHY?

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG! I KNOW THERE IS! I CAN FEEL IT!

MEBBE IT'S JUST A GAG! PROB'LY GOOFY OR HORACE THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY T' PLAY A JOKE ON US!

WELL— ANYWAY— I DON'T LIKE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD— 'SPECIALLY AT NIGHT!

AW, SHUCKS, MINNIE! THERE'S NUTHIN T' BE SCARED OF!

HE FELL FOR IT, ALL RIGHT!

GET READY! WHEN I GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL— LET HIM HAVE IT!

IF THAT LETTER WAS JUST A JOKE, I'LL BE FURIOUS! I DON'T THINK IT'S A BIT FUNNY, DO YOU?

WELL— IT SEEMS T' ME IT'S A BIT—

BLOMPH!

A BIT WHAT?

EL SMOKO

WHAT DID YOU SAY IT WAS? WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME?

MICKEY! WHERE ARE YOU?

HE'S GONE! MICKEY! WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT HAPPENED? MICK-EEEE! OH, MY HEAVENS! HE'S— HE'S BEEN—

HELP! POLICE! PO-LEECE! HELP! HELP! HELP!

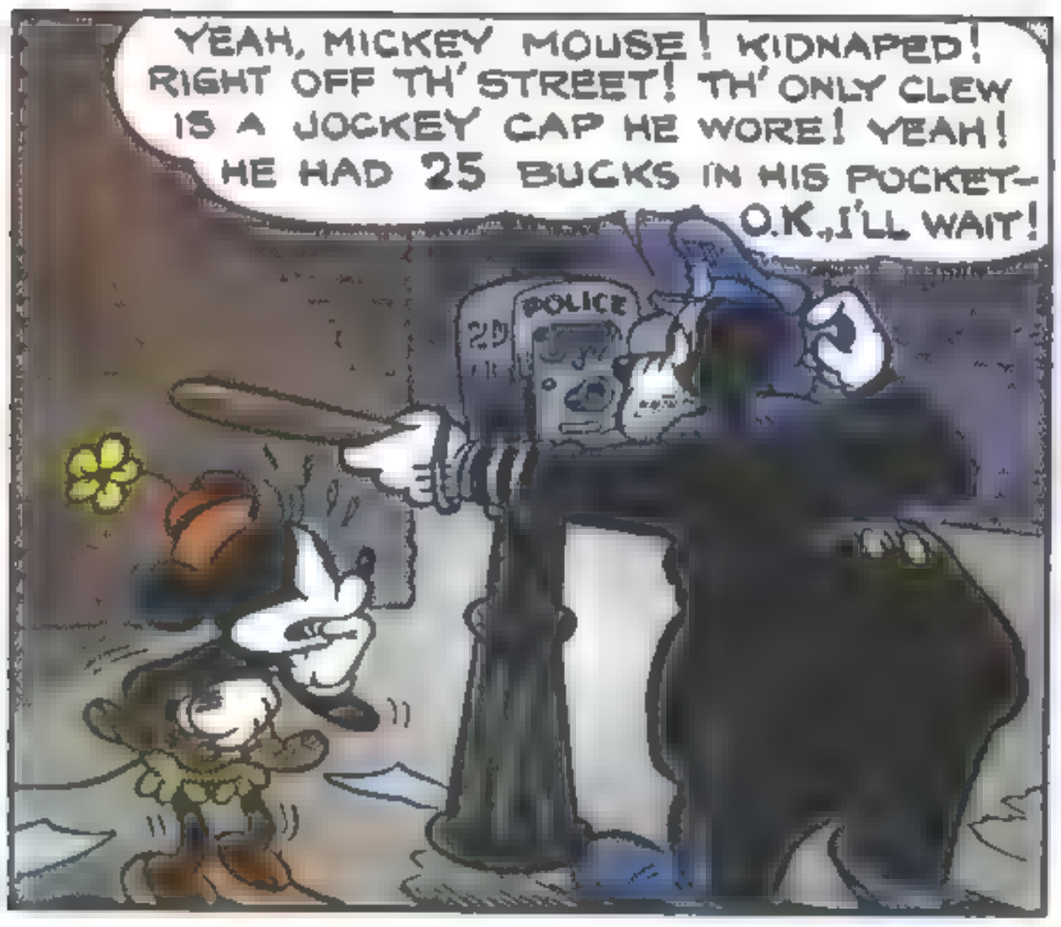
QUICK, OFFICER! MICKEY'S BEEN CATNIPED— I MEAN CATNAPED— THAT IS— HE'S BEEN— HE'S BEEN— KIDNAPED!

HUH? WHO?

2D. #3

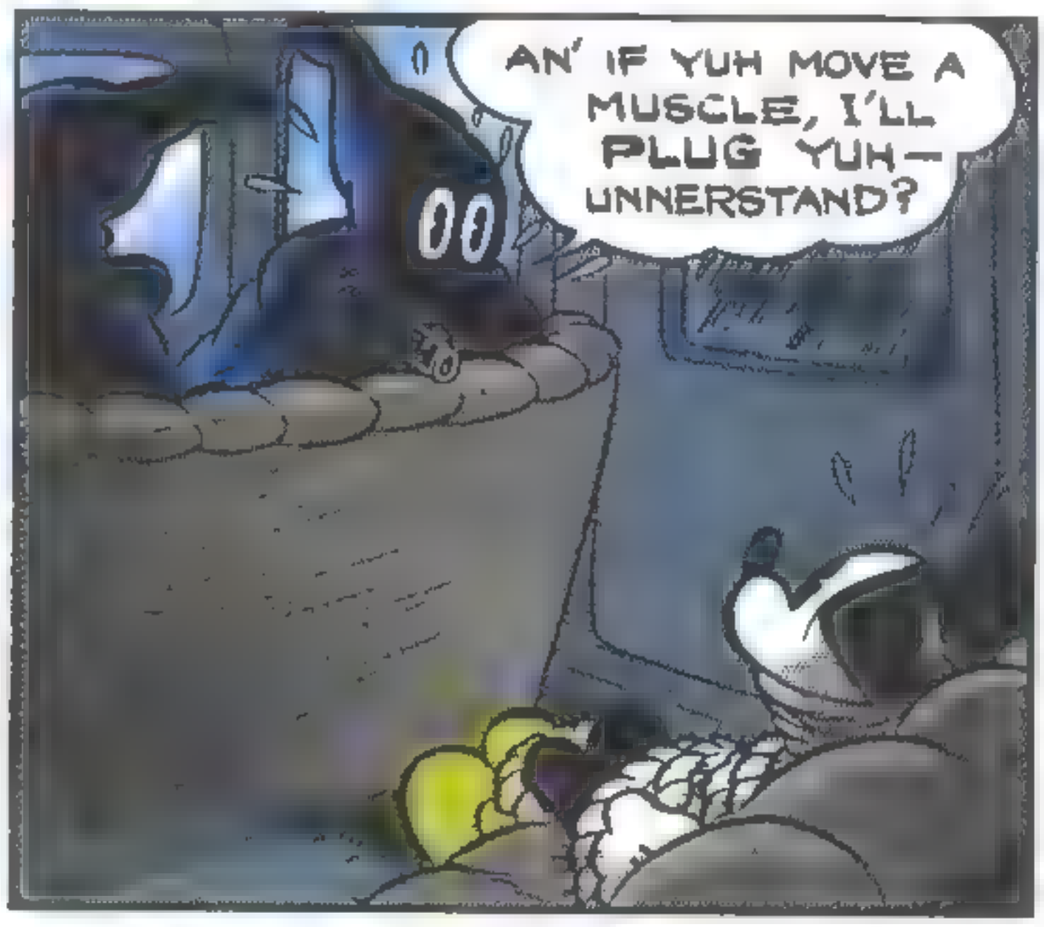
MAKE IT SNAPPY, JOE! TH' DAME'LL HAVE COPS SWARMIN' ALL OVER TH' PLACE IN A MINUTE!

HEY! WOFFA IDEA? LEMME HO!

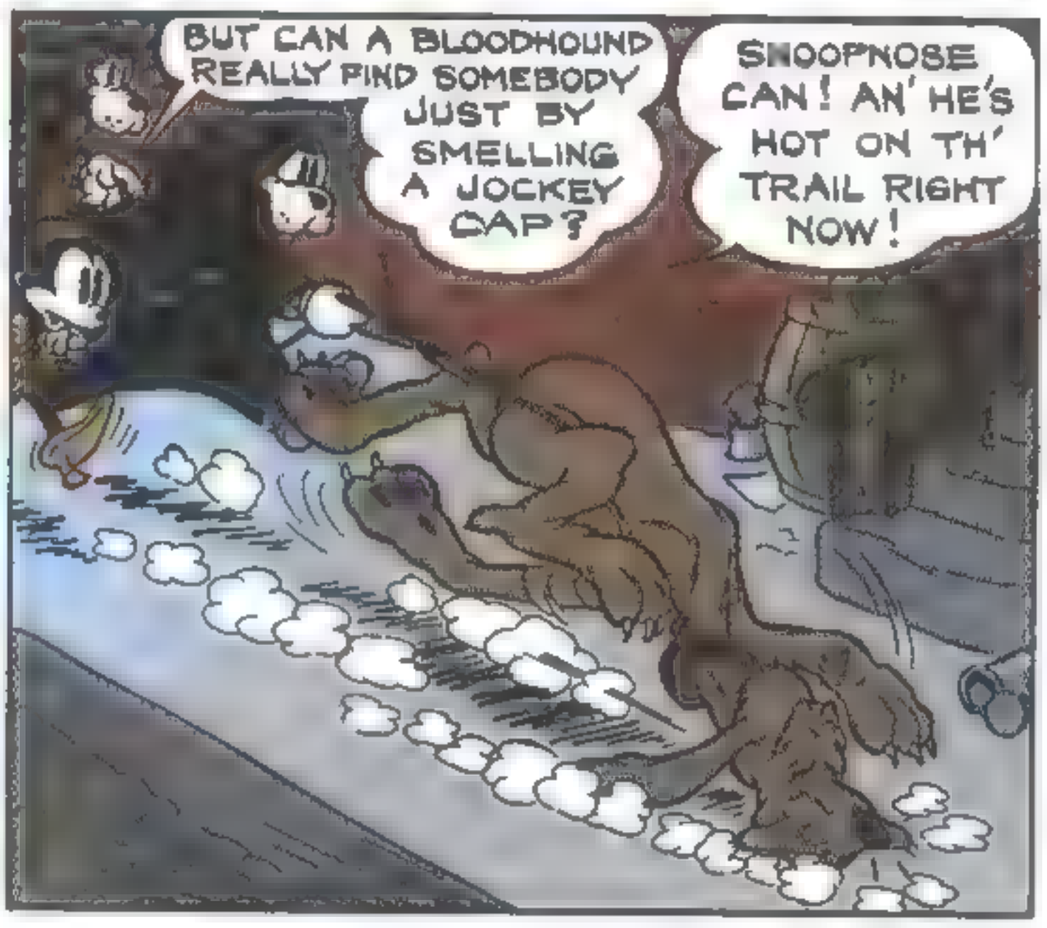

YEAH, MICKEY MOUSE! KIDNAPED! RIGHT OFF TH' STREET! TH' ONLY CLEW IS A JOCKEY CAP HE WORE! YEAH! HE HAD 25 BUCKS IN HIS POCKET— O.K., I'LL WAIT!
POLICE

THERE'LL BE A HUNDRED MEN ON TH' TRAIL IN AN HOUR! AN' THEY'RE SENDIN' OUT A COUPLE O' BLOODHOUNDS! DON'T WORRY— WE'LL FIND 'I'M!
POLICE

IN WITH 'IM, JOE! AN' MAKE IT SNAPPY! WE'VE GOT NO TIME T' LOSE!


AN' IF YUH MOVE A MUSCLE, I'LL PLUG YUH— UNNERSTAND?

HERE'S WHERE MICKEY WAS KIDNAPED AND THIS IS THE JOCKEY CAP HE WAS WEARING!
O. K — WHIFF IT GOOD SNOOPNOSE! THEN LEAD US TO HIM!


BUT CAN A BLOODHOUND REALLY FIND SOMEBODY JUST BY SMELLING A JOCKEY CAP?
SNOOPNOSE CAN! AN' HE'S HOT ON TH' TRAIL RIGHT NOW!

HOGAN'S
LIVERY STABL
ROWRF! OURF! OURF! OURF!

I'LL TAKE HIM INSIDE! YOU GET RID O' THAT CAR— AN' DO IT QUICK!

HERE HE IS, CHIEF!

HMMM! SORT OF A RUNT, ISN'T HE? I THOUGHT HE'D BE BIGGER! — TAKE OFF HIS GAG, JOE!

WELL, — SEEMS T' ME YOU GUYS ARE GOIN' TO A LOT O' TROUBLE JUST T' STEAL 25 BUCKS!

ONLY CHICKENFEED! YOU CAN KEEP IT!

YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE SIMPLY TO ANSWER ONE QUESTION! IF YOU DO IT — YOU CAN KEEP YOUR LIFE, TOO!

GEE, THAT'S SURE BIG-HEARTED OF YA! WHAT'S TH' QUESTION?

WHERE DOES CAPTAIN DOBERMAN KEEP THE PLANS OF HIS NEW AIRPLANE?

!

!

YOU HEARD ME! WHERE DOES CAPTAIN DOBERMAN KEEP THE PLANS OF HIS NEW AIRPLANE?

WHAT DO YA WANTA KNOW FOR? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S THE IDEA?

I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS HERE! AND IF YOU DON'T ANSWER — YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS HOUSE ALIVE!

NOW I KNOW I WON'T TELL YA!

IF TH' SECRET'S AS IMPORTANT AS THAT — YER JUST WASTIN' TIME ASKIN' ME FOR IT!

O.K, MEN! GET THE "PERSUADER" READY!

NOW, MY FRIEND — YOU HAVE JUST ONE MINUTE — EITHER YOU TALK — OR ELSE!!!

WHAT ARE YA TRYIN' T' DO — SCARE ME OR KID ME?

SO YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, EH?

WHY SHOULD I BE? YOU'RE NOT GONNA SHOOT! ALL YOU WANT FROM ME IS INFORMATION — AN' YA KNOW YA CAN'T GET IT THAT WAY!

PERHAPS NOT, MY FRIEND! BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN!

NOW — WE'LL JUST STRETCH YOU OUT — UNTIL YOU DECIDE TO TALK! IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG!

I DON'T CARE WHAT YA DO — I'LL NEVER TELL YA ABOUT CAPTAIN DOBERMAN'S PLANE!

DON'T BE TOO SURE, MY FRIEND!

HEY! OWOOOO! THAT — THAT — TICKLES! CUT IT OUT! CUT IT — CUT — CUT IT OUT!

HE SOUNDS MORE LIKE A CHICKEN THAN THE HEN DOES!

GOLLY! THAT'S MORE'N TWO QUARTS OF GRAIN ALREADY!

THAT'S — THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU — CAN — STOP NOW!

SO! YOU'VE GIVEN UP, EH?

NO! TH' CHICKEN HAS!

WE'LL GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE TO TELL US WHERE THOSE PLANS ARE! AND IF YOU DON'T—

NO!

COME ON! START TALKING! YOU HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!

NO, I TELL YA

REMEMBER! YOUR LAST CHANCE! ONE —

NO!

TWO-

NO!

THREE!

NO!

STILL REFUSING TO DIVULGE THE SECRET OF CAPTAIN DOBERMAN'S PLANE, MICKEY IS PLACED ON THE GALLOWS BY HIS CAPTORS, AND —

GIVE TH' KID CREDIT! HE SURE KEPT HIS MOUTH SHUT!

?

?

?

CAPTAIN DOBERMAN!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

CONGRATULATIONS, MICKEY! I'M PROUD OF YOU!

CONGRATULATIONS, MICKEY! YOU PASSED THE TEST WONDERFULLY!

BUT — CAPTAIN DOBERMAN — YA MEAN — MY KIDNAPIN' WAS JUST A GAG?

NO — IT WAS **MUCH** MORE THAN THAT! THESE MEN HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION IN WHICH BRAVERY AND ABSOLUTE SECRECY ARE VITAL!

?

I TOLD THEM YOU WOULD DO — BUT THEY WANTED TO BE SURE! SO THEY TRIED YOU OUT!

I'LL SAY THEY DID! BUT WHO **ARE** THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

THIS PARTICULAR "GUY" IS MAJOR BEAGLE — COMMANDER — IN-CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL SECRET SERVICE!

WELL FER — I'LL BE A — — THAT IS — — HUH — I'M GLAD T' KNOW YA, SIR!

MAJOR BEAGLE, CHIEF OF THE SECRET SERVICE, WASTES NO TIME IN TELLING MICKEY OF HIS PROBLEM!

THE BLUEPRINTS OF A NEW-TYPE GUN HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT! WE MUST RECOVER THEM — AT ONCE!

GOSH! HAVE YA ANY SUSPICIONS?

WE BELIEVE THE THIEF IS A FORMER GOVERNMENT AGENT, DISCHARGED FROM THE SERVICE! BUT WE CAN'T ARREST HIM UNTIL WE'RE SURE!

SO WE MUST LOCATE HIM, TRAIL HIM, GET THE PROOF, ARREST HIM AND RETURN THE PLANS — BEFORE HE EVEN KNOWS WE SUSPECT HIM!

YEAH! I CAN SEE THAT! BUT WHY TELL **ME** ABOUT IT?

BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO DO THE JOB!

MICKEY IS OFFERED THE BIGGEST JOB HE HAS EVER TACKLED—

THAT OF RECOVERING A SET OF PLANS STOLEN FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT!

BUT, MAJOR BEAGLE— I'M NO DETECTIVE! WHY DON'T YA PUT YER REG'LAR STAFF ON TH' GUY?

HE KNOWS EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT! WE MUST HAVE AN OUTSIDER, WHOM HE WON'T RECOGNIZE!

YOU SEE, WE KNOW HE'LL TRY TO SELL THE PLANS TO A FOREIGN POWER! AND IF HE SUCCEEDS— THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!

WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! IF HE KNEW HE WAS SUSPECTED, HE WOULD MAIL THE PLANS! AND THAT WOULD BE DISASTROUS!

YEAH! I SEE!

WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS THE FATE OF THE NATION IS AT STAKE! SO— WHAT DO YOU SAY? WILL YOU TAKE THE JOB?

YOU BETCHA! THAT IS — YES, SIR! AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR!

WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, MAJOR BEAGLE?

AS YOU KNOW, WE SUSPECT AN EX-OFFICER NAMED "TRIGGER" HAWKES! HERE IS HIS PICTURE!

YOUR JOB IS TO LOCATE HIM AND CAPTURE HIM, AND— ABOVE ALL— RECOVER THOSE STOLEN BLUEPRINTS! UNDERSTAND?

YES, SIR!

AND THAT'S ALL! FROM NOW ON, MY LAD, IT'S UP TO YOU! GET GOING — AND LOTS OF LUCK! YOU'LL NEED IT!

MICKEY'S JOB IS TO LOCATE AND CAPTURE "TRIGGER" HAWKES —

AND RECOVER THE STOLEN BLUEPRINTS OF A NEW-TYPE GUN!

OKAY, THEN! I'LL MEET YUH DOWN AT TH' DOCKS IN HALF AN HOUR!

PAY-PHONE

TH' FIRST THING T' DO IS 'PHONE MINNIE! I BET SHE'S PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT ME!

WELL, FER — THAT'S — THAT'S —

YEP! IT IS! IT'S "TRIGGER" HAWKES!

ASSIGNED BY MAJOR BEAGLE, OF THE SECRET SERVICE, TO RECOVER SOME STOLEN PLANS, MICKEY IS ON THE TRAIL OF A SUSPECT "TRIGGER" HAWKES!

HE'S JUST WALKIN' ALONG — NOT LOOKIN' AROUND OR ANYTHING! THAT MEANS HE DOESN'T KNOW WE SUSPECT HIM!

I SURE WISH I COULD TACKLE HIM RIGHT NOW — BUT IT'S A CINCH HE HASN'T GOT THE PLANS WITH HIM!

HE'D BE CRAZY IF HE CARRIED 'EM — AN' ANY GUY SMART ENOUGH T' STEAL THOSE PLANS ISN'T CRAZY!

BUT — WHEN HE MEETS THAT GUY DOWN AT TH' DOCKS, THERE'LL BE THREE PEOPLE LISTENIN' — AN' I'M GONNA BE ONE OF 'EM!

TRAILING THE SUSPECTED THIEF, "TRIGGER" HAWKES, MICKEY FOLLOWS HIM DOWN TO THE DOCKS AND —

THAT MUST BE TH' GUY HE WAS S'POSED T' MEET! NOW IF I CAN JUST FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE TALKIN' ABOUT —

AN' WHAT'S MORE, BY GOLLY, I CAN DO IT!

HIDING IN A CABBAGE CRATE, MICKEY SNEAKS UP TO WHERE "TRIGGER" HAWKES AND ANOTHER MAN ARE TALKING!

TRIGGER HAWKES, MY COUNTREE EES PREPARED TO OFFER YOU—

SHHH! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

I CAN'T DEAL WITH YOU YET! I KNOW WHAT TH' STUFF'S WORTH— BUT I'M KEEPING IT TILL IT'S SAFE TO SELL IT!

THIS IS A BIG JOB — AND EVERY COP IN THE COUNTRY IS HUNTING FOR THE GUY THAT'S GOT IT!

GOOD GOSH! I'VE GOTTA — I — I — GOTTA — AH — AH —

BUT ANYBODY THAT TRIES TO FIND IT OR WHO COMES SNOOPING AROUND, IS GOING TO DEAL WITH ME **PERSONALLY**! UNDERSTAND?

AHHH — KA —

MICKEY IS HIDDEN IN A CRATE, LISTENING TO A CONVERSATION BETWEEN "TRIGGER" HAWKES AND A FOREIGNER, WHEN HE FEELS A SNEEZE COMING ON!

'AVE YOU GOT THEM WEETH YOU, TRIGGER?

DON'T BE A FOOL! THEY'RE HIDDEN WHERE NOBODY'LL EVER FIND 'EM!

AHHH— KAH—

GESUNDHEIT!

GESUNDHEIT!

WHERE EES THAT, TRIGGER?

CHOO!

AND I'M HIDING MYSELF, TOO, IN TH' BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD!

A MONTH FROM NOW, IF YOUR GOVERNMENT WANTS TO REACH ME, I'LL BE IN —

SHHHH!— SOMEBODY EES COMING!

LOOK JOE! THERE'S A CRATE WE MISSED!

WHILE MICKEY IS EAVESDROPPING ON "TRIGGER" HAWKES AND A FOREIGNER, TWO LONGSHOREMEN DISCOVER THE CRATE IN WHICH HE IS HIDING!

HOW'D WE EVER COME TO MISS THIS ONE?

I DUNNO! 'S FUNNY!

!

!

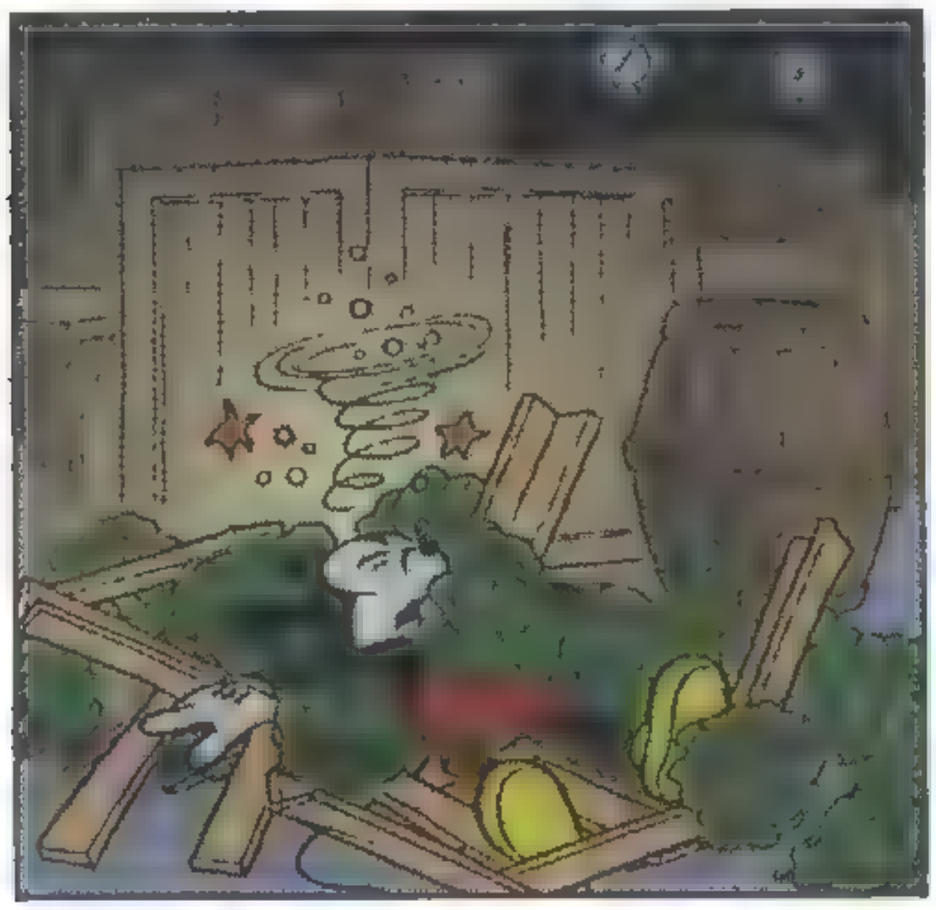
WELL — THERE'S JUST ONE THING T' DO! GRAB THAT END, WILL YUH?

HEY! WHAT TH'—

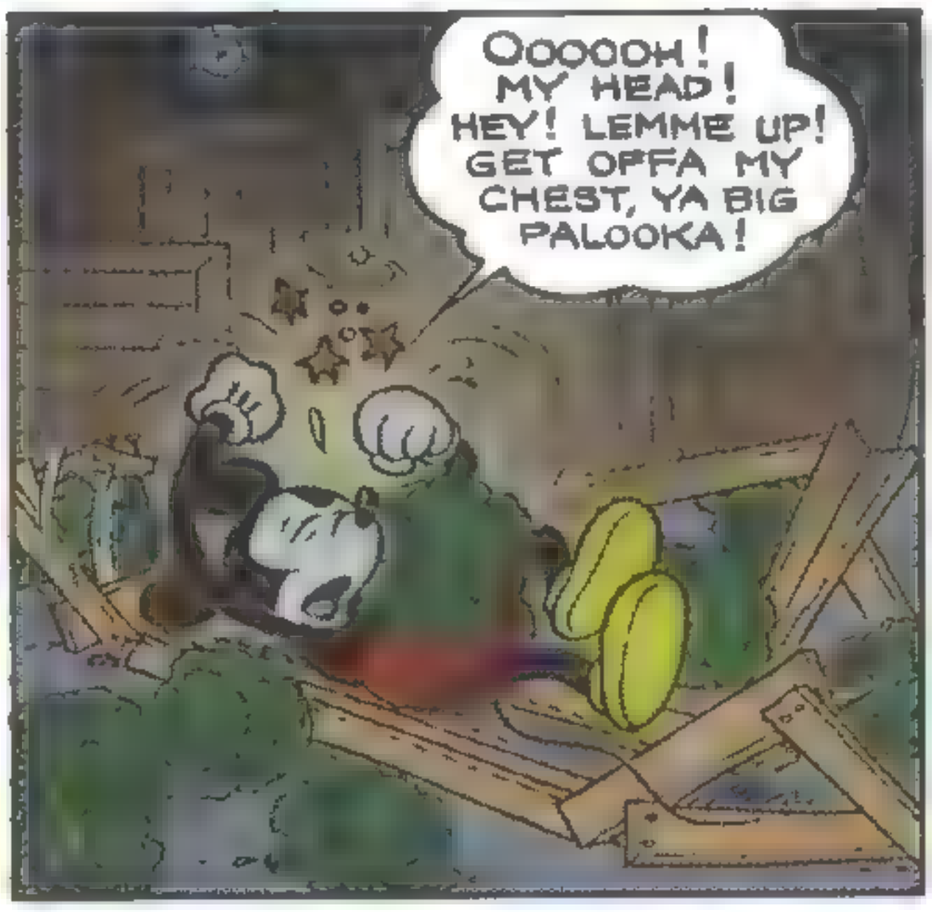
ONE—

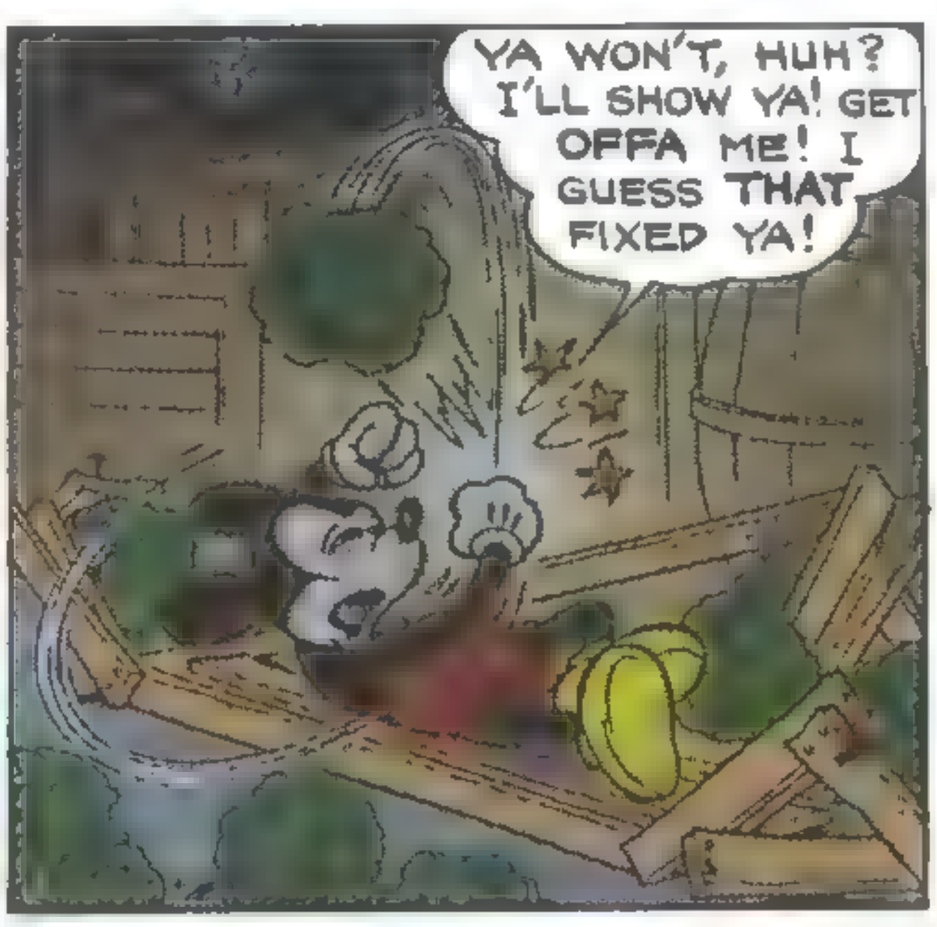
TWO—

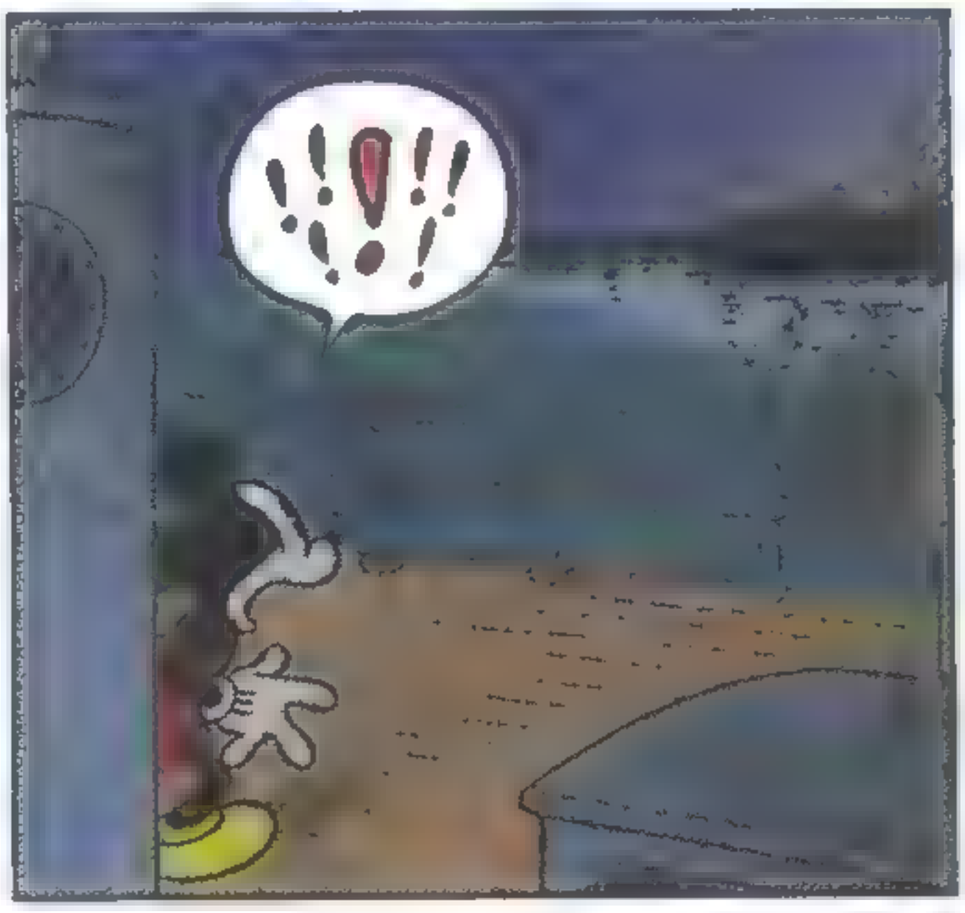
THREE!



TRAILING "TRIGGER" HAWKES, MICKEY IS HIDING IN A CABBAGE CRATE WHEN TWO STEVEDORES TOSS IT INTO A SHIP'S HOLD, KNOCKING HIM OUT!







DOGGONE TH' LUCK! AN' TRIGGER HAWKES IS BACK THERE ON TH' DOCKS! BUT IF I CAN GET THIS LAUNCHED—

HEY! WHAT TH' BLINKIN' BLUE BLAZES? GIT OUT O' THERE!

!

LIFEBOAT NO 16

STOWAWAY, SIR! I CAUGHT HIM TRYIN' TO STEAL A LIFE-BOAT!

So! A THIEF, TOO, EH? TAKE HIM BELOW!

WHAT A SWELL DETECTIVE I TURNED OUT T' BE!

DOGGONE IT, I'LL HAFTA RADIO MAJOR BEAGLE, SO'S HE CAN PUT SOMEBODY ELSE ON TRIGGER HAWKES' TRAIL!

I WANTA SEND A RADIOGRAM, BUT I HAVEN'T GOT ANY MONEY ON ME!

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT SIR! WHAT'S THE NUMBER OF YOUR STATE-ROOM?

WELL— YA SEE— I HAVEN'T EXACTLY GOT ONE! I JUST SORT O' GOT ON TH' BOAT BY ACCIDENT, —KIND OF!

OH! SO YOU'RE THE STOWAWAY, EH?

RADIO ROOM

— AND WHAT'S MORE— KEEP OUT!

POOR MICKEY! HE IS BEING CARRIED FARTHER AND FARTHER FROM THE DOCKS WHERE HE LEFT "TRIGGER" HAWKES, WHOM HE WAS ASSIGNED TO CAPTURE!

NOW HE'LL HAVE PLENTY O' TIME T' SELL THOSE GUN PLANS AN' NOBODY'LL STOP HIM — 'CAUSE THEY THINK I'M TRAILIN' HIM!

IF I COULD ONLY SWIPE AN AIRPLANE — OR A MOTORBOAT — OR SUMPIN' — I'D TAKE A CHANCE ON IT! BUT THERE ISN'T EVEN ONE ABOARD!

THERE'S NOT A THING I CAN DO — EXCEPT SCRUB THESE DOGGONED DECKS!

OH, YES, THERE IS!

WHEN YER FINISHED WITH THOSE, YUH KIN START POLISHIN' TH BRASS!

AN' I'M S'POSED T'BE A SMART DETECTIVE! YEAH! I'M AWFUL SMART! PHOOEY!

IT MAKES ME SO DOGGONED MAD I COULD —

HEY! LOOK OUT!

OH, GEE, MISTER, I'M SORRY— I — I — I —

YOU CLUMSY LITTLE BRAT! WHY DON'T YOU LOOK WHO YOU'RE THROWIN' THINGS AT?

OMIGOSH! IT'S — IT'S —

WHEN HIS SCRUB-BUCKET SPILLS ONTO ONE OF THE PASSENGERS, MICKEY LOOKS UP, READY TO APOLOGIZE AND SEES— OF ALL PEOPLE— TRIGGER HAWKES!

WELL— DON'T STAND THERE STARING AT ME! DO SOMETHING!

Y-Y-YES, SIR! OH, YES, SIR! I WILL, SIR! GLADLY, SIR!

IN FACT, SIR, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GLADLY, SIR!

YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T REPORT YOU TO THE CAPTAIN!

YES, SIR! THANK YOU, SIR!

AN' TO THINK I TRIED MY BEST T' GET OFF THIS SHIP! WHOOPEE! I GUESS I'M NOT SUCH A BAD DETECTIVE, AFTER ALL!

STOWAWAY MICKEY DOESN'T CARE WHAT KIND OF WORK HE HAS TO DO, NOW THAT HE HAS DISCOVERED TRIGGER HAWKES IS A PASSENGER!

HUH! I DON'T EVEN CARE WHERE THIS SHIP'S HEADED FOR— OR WHEN WE LAND!

LEMME SEE, THOUGH! HE TOLD THAT GUY DOWN AT TH' DOCKS HE'D PICKED OUT TH' BEST HIDIN'-PLACE IN THE WORLD! I WONDER WHERE THAT'D BE!

IF I KNEW WHERE WE WERE GOIN', IT'D PROB'LY GIMME A CLEW! GUESS I'D BETTER PEEK AT TH' CARGO!

F' GOSH SAKES! AFRICA! SO THAT'S WHERE HE'S GONNA HIDE!

To -
Mr. Ghit tu Bedh
Aita Klah Kurfu-
NORTH AFRICA—

TO BE CONTINUED!

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ON SALE DECEMBER 2006

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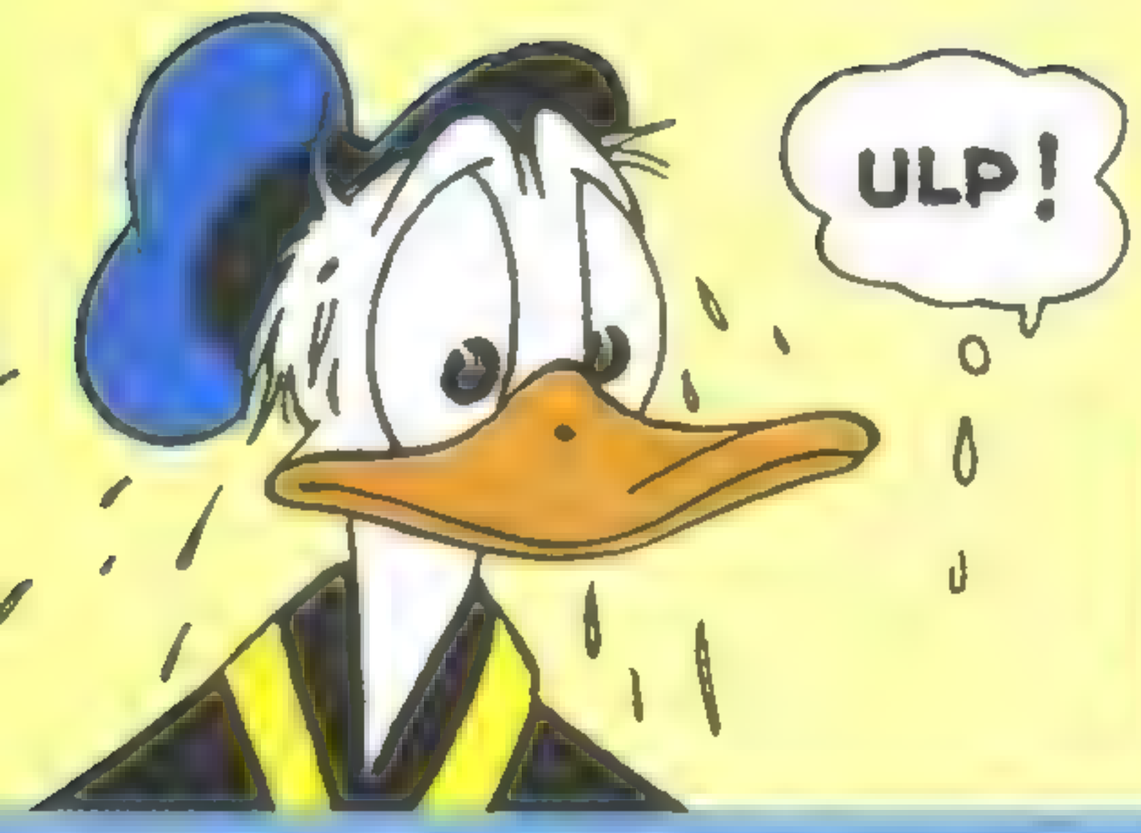
MICKEY MOUSE and BLOTMAN in BLOTMAN RETURNS



ARE YOU A DONALDIST?

don • ald • ism \ dän'-ld-iz'-em \ *n* : the research of Disney comics, and/or the fan culture that is found among Disney comics aficionados (Jon Gisle, 1973)

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Walt Disney's

THE PHANTOM BLOT in TIS THE SEASON TO BE WICKED

PART 6 OF THE ORB SAGA

SANTALAND! ONCE A BUSTLING AMUSEMENT PARK, THE PLACE HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR SEVERAL YEARS! BUT NOW, ON THIS CHRISTMAS EVE AFTERNOON, SOMETHING IS STIRRING...

BRR! DIS DILAPIDATED OL' JOINT IS *SPOOKY!* IF I HAD ME DRUTHERS, I WOULDN'T'A *NEVER* CAME HERE! BUT NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND SEZ NO TO—

D 99055

PEEPERS! YOU'VE ARRIVED!

YIIEEE!

THE PHANTOM BLOT!

YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION NEVER FAIL TO ASTONISH ME! NOW LISTEN! I'VE COME BACK TO CALISOTA FOR A VERY GOOD REASON!

I'M LOOKING FOR AN *ORB!* A CRYSTAL SPHERE OF PROFOUND BEAUTY! IT'S VERY EXISTENCE SUGGESTS UNIMAGINABLE POWER!

I CAN TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY, CAN'T I, PEEPERS? BECAUSE I KNOW I CAN *TRUST* YOU!

T-THAT'S RIGHT, MR. BLOT! YOU CAN TRUST ME!

"I FIRST SPIED THE ORB EMBEDDED IN A WALL OF ICE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF FAR OFF YUBET...

"...BUT THAT WRETCHED MICKEY MOUSE SNATCHED THE PRIZE FROM MY HANDS!"

AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE MOUSE STILL HAS THE SPHERE! YET I NEED TO BE *SURE!* THAT'S WHY I'VE SUMMONED *YOU,* PEEPERS!

=GASP!=

YOU KNOW *EVERY-THING* THAT GOES ON IN WEBFOOT COUNTY!

YOU BET! TH' MOUSE GAVE TH' ORB TO HIS GIRLFRIEND! SOME SKIRT NAMED *MINNIE!*

INDEED!

THEN MINNIE RAN INTO DAISY DUCK, WHO HAD AN *IDENTICAL* ORB! AN' *BOTH* TH' DINGUSES WUZ SNATCHED BY TH' *BEAGLE BOYS!*

TWO ORBS?! AND THE BEAGLE BOYS TOOK THEM? IS THAT *ALL* YOU KNOW?

YEAH, MR. BLOT! I *SWEAR* IT!

GOOD! I'M AFRAID YOUR SERVICES CAN NOW BE *DIS-PENSED* WITH, PEEPERS...!

AIIIEEEE!!

TWO ORBS, Eh? *MOST* INTERESTING! I WONDER WHAT *SECRETS* THEY CONTAIN!

ALAS, THERE IS A BEING WHO FULLY UNDER-STANDS WHAT THE ORBS ARE CAPABLE OF!

HIGH ATOP MOUNT DUCK-BURG...

BUT DAD! WHY CAN'T WE JUST *BUY* A CHRISTMAS TREE LIKE EVERY-ONE *ELSE?*

NO, SIR! THIS YEAR WE'RE GONNA CHOP DOWN THE *REAL* THING! THE *BIGGEST* WE CAN FIND!

=HUH?=

AFTER THREE HUN-DRED LONG YEARS, WHO *DARES* INTERRUPT THE MEDITATION OF MERINGUE THE MALEVOLENT? BLOODY PEASANTS!

I'VE NEVER LIKED THE LOOK OF A MOB ARMED WITH AXES! WELL, A SIMPLE MAGIC SPELL WILL CHASE THE RABBLE AWAY!

=AWP!= DAD! IS THAT A *DRAGON?*

FORGET THE TREE, FAMILY! WE'LL GET A *PLASTIC* ONE!

=HAH! HAH! HAAH!=

THE PEASANTS OF THIS AGE ARE AS *SUPERSTITIOUS* AND EASILY FRIGHTENED AS THOSE OF THREE CENTURIES PAST!

AND NOW I MUST VEN-TURE INTO THEIR WORLD! MY TEDIOUS WAIT IS OVER! THE TIME HAS COME TO *RECOVER* MY MIRACULOUS *ORBS OF POWER!*

"I CREATED THOSE SPHERES THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM MAGICAL METALS WITHIN THIS MOUNTAIN!

"AT THE STROKE OF TWELVE ON THE LAST NIGHT OF 1706 THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO MELD TOGETHER TO BECOME AN INVINCIBLE SCEPTER OF POWER!

"BUT THE WIZARD DARFELD FOILED MY PLANS! HE ENLISTED THE AID OF TWO PILGRIMS, WHO DISTRACTED ME LONG ENOUGH FOR DARFELD TO CAST MY ORBS TO THE OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

KA-BLAM!

"BUT I CONJURED A COUNTERSPELL THAT MADE SURE THE ORBS CAME TOGETHER AGAIN IN THE LAST DAYS OF 2006!

"THEN I WITHDREW INTO MOUNT DUCKBURG TO AWAIT THE TWILIGHT OF THE FUTURE'S FUTURE, WHEN I WOULD GATHER MY ORBS AND FULFILL MY PLAN!"

I CAN *SENSE* THE MYSTICAL *PRESENCE* OF THE ORBS IN THE BIG GLITTERING BURG BELOW!

EXCELLENT! I'LL FOLLOW THE TELL-TALE RESIDUE OF THEIR SUPERNATURAL ENERGY UNTIL I LOCATE THEM! SOON THE WORLD WILL BE *MINE!*

THE WORK-YARD OF LEAVEN-WORST PRISON!

WHAT A MISER-ABLE HOLIDAY *THIS* HAS TURNED OUT TO BE! BUSTIN' ROCKS IN THE POKEY!

IT'D SURE BE SWEET TO SIT DOWN TO A CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER LIKE GRANDMA USED TO MAKE!

ZZZZ

THAT'S THE *ONLY* PRESENT I WANT THIS YEAR!

176-167

176-671

BOOM!

HOLY *CANNOLI!* THE *PRISON WALL!*

LOOK AT THE *SIZE* OF THAT HOLE!

C'MON, BROTHERS! WE'RE SPRUNG!

YEAH! BUT BY *WHOM?*

BY *ME*, YOU BUMBLING BURGLARS!

—*GASP!*— THE PHANTOM BLOT!

BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT WIT' *US?*

I'M AFTER THE *ORBS* YOU TWO-BIT HOODLUMS STOLE! TURN THEM OVER, OR I'LL SUMMON THE WARDEN!

NOW HOLD YOUR HORSES, BLOT!

DAISY AND MINNIE HOOD-WINKED US AN' *STOLE* 'EM BACK!

WORD ON TH' GRAPE-VINE IS THOSE SKIRTS TOOK TH' ORBS TO *GYRO GEARLOOSE* FOR STUDY!

176-167

176-671

OWWWEEEEEEEE!

GEARLOOSE, Eh?! YOU'D BETTER BE ON THE UP AND UP OR ELSE! NOW SCRAM!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL US TWICE, BLOTTY!

AT DUCKBURG AIRPORT, A TRANSOCEANIC FLIGHT TOUCHES DOWN ON THE RUNWAY!

AT LAST!

I'M BACK TO HAVE MY *REVENGE* ON SCROOGE McDUCK!

THE OLD COOT AND HIS FEATHERBRAINED NEPHEW DEFEATED ME LAST TIME BY *BONKING* ME ON THE HEAD WITH SOME KIND OF SMOOTH *SPHERE!*

BUT TONIGHT I'M SURE SCROOGE WILL BE AWAY HAVING CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER WITH HIS FOOL FAMILY! *NOTHING* CAN STOP ME FROM TAKING HIS NUMBER ONE DIME!

·2222·

SHORTLY, OUTSIDE SCROOGE'S MONEY BIN!

Hmmm! I'VE FOLLOWED THE MYSTIC ENERGY TRAIL FROM ONE OF THE ORBS TO *THIS* PLACE! BUT THE EMANATIONS ARE *WEAK!* IT IS *NO LONGER* HERE—

Eh? WHO'S THAT?

MIXTI, MAXTI, MUXTI, MOCK! MONEY BIN DOOR NOW *UNLOCK!* DRAT! THE SPELL ISN'T WORKING!

HEY! WHO ARE YOU?

MAGICA DE SPELL! AND WHO ARE *YOU,* BUSTER?

I AM MERINGUE THE MALEVOLENT! DO YOU CALL YOURSELF A SORCERESS? YOUR PITIFUL KNOWLEDGE OF MAGIC IS APPALLING!

INSULT *ME,* WILL YOU? I BET YOU'RE AFTER OLD NUMBER ONE, TOO! TASTE FOOF BOMB, INTERLOPER!

FOOF!

FOOF!

⇒AWP!⇐ YOU'RE *NOT* AFFECTED!

IMPUDENT WENCH! I OUGHT TO *BLAST* YOU TO THE PITS OF *HADES* FOR ATTACKING ME!

BUT YOU MIGHT BE USEFUL AS A MINION! I'LL CAST A DIFFERENT SPELL INSTEAD! A *LOVE* SPELL!

SAY! I DIDN'T NOTICE BEFORE! YOU'RE QUITE A HUNK!

PING!

AND NOW I MUST SEARCH FOR STRONGER VIBRATIONS FROM THE ORBS! COME, MY LOVESICK PUPPY! FOLLOW ME!

MEANWHILE, IN THE WORK-SHOP OF GYRO GEARLOOSE!

JUST AS I EXPECTED! THE QUACK INVENTOR ISN'T HERE! PROBABLY GONE TO A CHRIST-MAS DINNER SOME-PLACE!

MINUTES LATER!

CURSES! I'VE LOOKED *EVERYWHERE* FOR THE ORBS! WHERE COULD THEY... OF COURSE! HIS *LABORATORY SAFE!*

⇒HEH!⇐ CRACKING ONE OF THESE IS *CHILD'S* PLAY FOR THE PHANTOM BLOT!

⇒AHA!⇐ I'VE HIT THE JACKPOT! NO WONDER THEY CALL ME A CRIMINAL GENIUS!

ELSEWHERE!

HERE WE ARE! HIDEOUT, SWEET HIDEOUT!

IT FEELS *GREAT* TO BE ON TH' LAM FROM TH' LAW AGAIN!

AND BEST OF ALL, THERE'S STILL TIME FOR A CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER!

176-167

YOUR STOMACHS WILL STAY *EMPTY* TILL I DISCOVER THE WHEREABOUTS OF MY *ORBS,* LOUTS!

SLAM!

⇒EEP!⇐

I SENSE THE SPHERES WERE HERE ONCE! WHERE HAVE THEY GONE TO?

HEY! GET OUT BEFORE WE *TOSS* YOU OUT!

FOOF THEM, MAGICA MY DEAR!

ANYTHING FOR YOU, TURTLE DOVE!

FOOF! FOOF! FOOF!

NOW! *WHO* HAS THE ORBS?

PING!

⇒GLEEP!⇐ THE PHANTOM BLOT!

HE'S PROBABLY *COPPED* 'EM FROM GYRO'S WORKSHOP BY NOW!

INDEED?

HE'S AS MEAN AND TOUGH AND RUTHLESS AS THEY COME!

THIS PHANTOM BLOT SOUNDS *FORMIDABLE!* PERHAPS IT WOULD BE WISE TO TAKE ALONG THIS BUNCH AS MY OWN LITTLE *ARMY* IN AN ASSAULT ON HIS STRONGHOLD!

THAT WOULD BE SANTA-LAND'S FUN HOUSE! WHERE WE FIND THE BLOT AT WORK...

→GRR!← IF I'M SUCH A *GENIUS,* WHY CAN'T I *DECIPHER* THE SECRET OF THESE ORBS?

AAAOOOOOGA!

Eh? MY SECURITY ALARM! THERE ARE *IN-TRUDERS* ON THE PREMISES!!

THE *EMANATIONS* FROM THE ORBS ARE *STRONGEST HERE!* BEWARE, PHANTOM BLOT! THE SHOWDOWN IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

BEAGLE BOYS, GO *THAT* WAY! MAGICA, GO THE *OTHER* WAY! RETRIEVE WHAT IS MINE!

WHATEVER YOU WANT, SUGAR-LUMP!

I'LL WAIT HERE WHILE *YOU* TROUNCE THE RASCAL! AFTER ALL, WHY EXERT MYSELF NEEDLESSLY?

WE'RE COMIN' TO GETCHA, BLOT!

OUR MASTER MERINGUE THE MALEVOLENT WANTS WHAT'S *HIS!*

HEY! WE'RE IN A HALL OF MIRRORS!

SO WHAT? WE WON'T LET THAT SHADOWY BUM CONFUSE US!

CONFUSE YOU? ON THE CONTRARY! I'M HERE TO *WELCOME* YOU!

YIPE! HE'S EVERYWHERE!

WHICH ONE IS THE *REAL* HIM?

WE GOTTA GET TO ANOTHER ROOM TO REGAIN TH' ADVANTAGE!

WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BROTHER!

CRASH!

YEOWCH!

BRAINLESS OAFS! ALL THE BRAWN IN THE WORLD WON'T HELP AGAINST THE CUNNING MIND OF THE PHANTOM BLOT!

MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE, *BUNGLE* BOYS! I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PLAYMATE AND THEN DEAL WITH YOUR "MASTER" HIMSELF!

MOMENTS LATER!

⇒HAH!⇐ HE DOESN'T EVEN *KNOW* I'M HERE! I'LL KNOCK HIM FOR A LOOP BEFORE HE CAN SAY BOO!

PHANTOM BLOT! TAKE *THAT* IN THE NAME OF MY BELOVED SWEETCAKES!

FOOF!

WHY, IT'S ONLY A PHONEY STUFFED GORILLA! I'VE BEEN *HAD!*

THAT YOU HAVE, USELESS WITCH!

HANG AROUND AWHILE, DEAR LADY! IT'S TIME TO TEACH THAT MERINGUE A THING OR TWO!

⇒MMFFF!⇐

MERINGUE! I'VE *SLAPPED* YOUR INEFFECTUAL MINIONS LIKE PESKY *MOSQUITOES!* NOW COME FIND ME YOURSELF!

WHAT?!

I'VE NO MORE TIME FOR THESE TRIFLING GAMES! THAT *FOOL* DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP AGAINST!!

CRACKLE!

LET HIM FEEL THE *FULL FORCE* OF MY MIGHTY MAGICAL WRATH!

BA-BOOM!

IT'S *OVER*, BLOT! GIVE ME MY ORBS!

NO! I WON'T LET YOU HAVE THEM! I'LL...

YOU'LL *WHAT?* YOU DON'T SEEM TO *APPRECIATE* THE FACT THAT YOU'VE MET YOUR *MASTER!*

URK!

EVEN *YOU* CANNOT RESIST MY SPELL OF OBEDIENCE! YOUR WILL NO LONGER BELONGS TO YOU! NOW *WHO AM I?*

M-MY GREAT MASTER!

AND DON'T YOU *FORGET* IT!

FINALLY! AFTER THREE HUNDRED YEARS THE ORBS ARE *MINE* ONCE MORE!!

WE'RE SURE GLAD *YOU* GOT A NICE CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

AND, Uh, WE WAS KINDA WONDERIN' IF MAYBE YOU'D LET US HAVE A CHRISTMAS WISH OF OUR OWN?

176

176-6

76-76!

AND SO...

WOW! A CHRISTMAS DINNER JUST LIKE GRANDMA USED TO MAKE!

ENJOY IT! FOR NEXT WEEK— AT THE TURN OF THE MILLENNIUM— I WILL MELD THESE ORBS INTO THE ULTIMATE SCEPTER OF POWER! *AND RULE THE WORLD!*

176-16

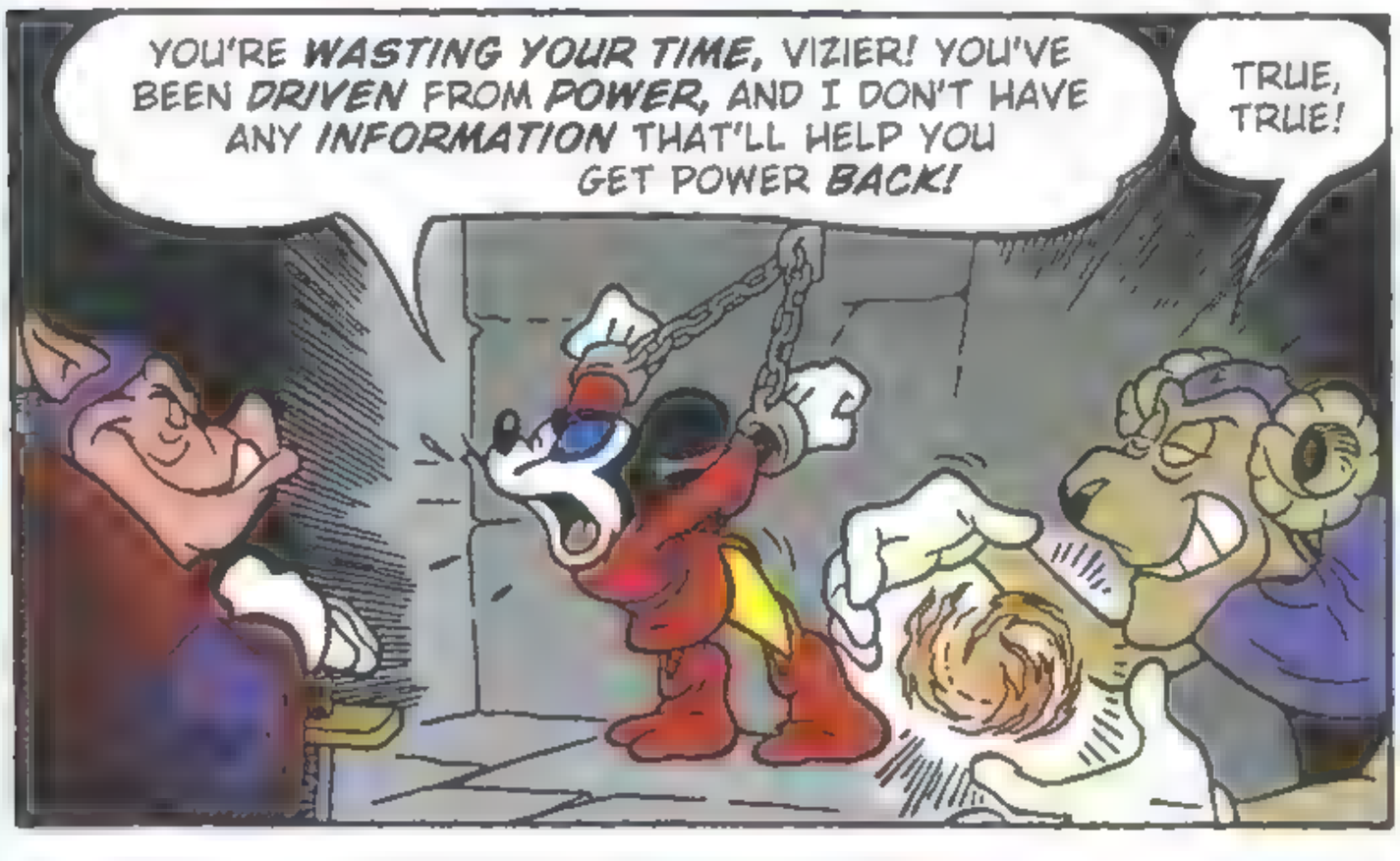
TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE...

Walt Disney's

MICKEY MOUSE in The Protector of Shambor Part 1

IS THIS A DREAM? OR ARE WE REALLY IN SOME DARK AND DEADLY CORNER OF THE FANTASTIC REALM OF SHAMBOR?
CHAIN THIS REBEL TO THE WALL, GUARD! THEN LEAVE US!
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU LEFT! WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN WON'T BE A PRETTY SIGHT!
TORTURE?! BAH! DO YOUR WORST, YOU FLEA-BAG LOSERS!
D 2001-073

...AND DON'T COUNT ON YOUR LIBERATOR TO SAVE YOU! WITHOUT THE FABLED SWORD OF SHAMBOR, HERE, HE'S MERELY ANOTHER BIG-EARED RODENT!


YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, VIZIER! YOU'VE BEEN DRIVEN FROM POWER, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT'LL HELP YOU GET POWER BACK!
TRUE, TRUE!

NOOOO!!!

⇒WHEW!⇐ WHAT A *NIGHTMARE!* MY PAL YEKCIM RAKED ACROSS THE COALS BY THE EX-VIZIER OF SHAMBOR AND HIS WIZARD GOON!

⇒HMM!⇐ I'LL BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR IT'S *NOT* JUST A DREAM! I'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE!

IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS GIVEN THE MYSTERIOUS *BOOK OF SHAMBOR!*

"AN OLD HOMELESS GUY AT THE BEACH FOISTED IT OFF ON ME!"

"HE SURE SEEMED *GLAD* TO GET RID OF IT!"

"HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN THAT THE BLANK PAGES OF THAT BOOK WERE ACTUALLY A GATEWAY TO THE MARVELOUS REALM OF *SHAMBOR?!*"

"THERE, I HELPED REBEL LEADER *YEKCIM ESUOM* RESCUE *PRINCESS LORAC* AND HER FATHER FROM THE VIZIER'S *CLUTCHES!*"

"I NEVER COULD HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE FABLED *SWORD OF SHAMBOR!* AS AN ANCIENT PROPHECY FORETOLD, I WAS THE ONLY GUY CAPABLE OF WIELDING THE MAGICAL BLADE!"

"I MET *OTHER* FRIENDS IN SHAMBOR! ONE WAS *HUBERT*, THE ETERNAL *KEEPER* OF THE *TEMPLE OF DREAMS!*"

"HE REVEALED THAT THE *PROPHET* WHO HAD PREDICTED MY COMING WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE *OLD MAN* WHO GAVE ME THE *BOOK!*"

"ANOTHER PAL WAS THE TELEPATHIC *THUNDERBIRD!*"

"HE JOINED ME AND THE REBELS IN AN ATTACK THAT WOULD DRIVE THE VIZIER AND HIS COHORT – THORNENCLAW THE WIZARD – FROM POWER ONCE AND FOR ALL!"

"WE DEFEATED THEIR ARMY HANDS-DOWN! BUT AT THE LAST INSTANT, THAT CRAFTY VIZIER PULLED A DIRTY *TRICK!*"

"YEKCIM TOOK UP MY WEAPON AND TRIED TO RALLY THE TROOPS! ALAS! IN *HIS* HANDS, THE SWORD OF SHAMBOR WAS *USELESS!*"

"WE SUCCEEDED IN RESTORING THE THRONE TO ITS RIGHTFUL RULER, BUT THE VIZIER AND THE WIZARD *GOT AWAY* WITH YEKCIM AS THEIR *PRISONER!*"

"THEY HAD THE *SWORD*, TOO! AND I WAS *HELPLESS*, FADING AWAY... BACK TO MY OWN WORLD!"

THAT DREAM WAS A ***WARNING!*** YEKCIM'S IN BIG TROUBLE! I'VE GOTTA GET ***BACK*** TO SHAMBOR!

THIS BOOK'S ALWAYS TRANSPORTED ME THERE IN THE PAST! WITH ANY LUCK, IT'LL WORK ONE MORE TIME!

IF I JUST ***STARE*** AT THE BLANK PAGES... AND ***CONCENTRATE...*** I'M SURE ANY MINUTE NOW...

-ARGH!- ***NOTHING!*** IT'S NOT HAPPENING! TH' GOSHDARN BOOK'S NOT ***COOPERATING!***

THIS IS ***BAD!*** I'VE ***GOTTA*** FIND SOME WAY TO GET TO YEKCIM AND HAUL HIM OUTTA THE FRYING PAN! BUT ***HOW?!***

THE BOOK OF SHAMBOR ***IS*** THE KEY! BUT I DON'T ***UNDERSTAND*** ITS WAYS! AND NOBODY ***ELSE*** KNOWS ABOUT IT... EXCEPT...

OF ***COURSE!*** THE ***OLD MAN!*** THE CODGER WHO ***DUMPED*** IT ON ME IN THE FIRST PLACE! ***HE*** OWNED THE BOOK FOR ***YEARS!***

I'VE ***GOTTA*** FIND HIM! MAYBE ***HE*** CAN HELP ME FIGURE THIS MESS OUT! BUT WHERE DO I ***LOOK?***

MICKEY MOUSE

THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO START! I MET THE GEEZER RIGHT *HERE* ON THE BEACH NEAR THE BAYSIDE AMUSEMENT PARK!

COULD HE STILL *BE* AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE? I GOT THE IMPRESSION HE DIDN'T HAVE ANYPLACE *ELSE* TO GO!

=:HMMM!:= THAT OLD *DRAINAGE* TUNNEL! IT HASN'T BEEN USED IN *AGES!* I WONDER?...

BINGO! I'VE *FOUND* YOU! GUESS THIS IS THE CLOSEST THING TO A HOME YOU'VE GOT!

=:GASP!:= *YOU!!* WHAT DO YOU *WANT?!*

NOW DON'T GET NERVOUS, MISTER! LOOK! I'VE BROUGHT THE BOOK OF SHAMBOR!

THE *BOOK*?! *GIVE* IT TO ME!

WAIT! *NO!* WHAT AM I *THINKING*?! I DON'T EVER WANT TO *TOUCH* THAT CURSED THING AGAIN!

WHY?

THE BOOK TRANSPORTED ME BACK-AND-FORTH TO SHAMBOR FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS! AND ON EACH VISIT, I STAYED LONGER AND LONGER!

MY VISIONS PREDICTED A *LIBERATOR*... *YOU!* SHAMBOR'S OPPRESSED PEOPLE TOOK *HOPE* FROM MY PROPHECIES! MY LIFE HAD PURPOSE! SHAMBOR BECAME MY *HOME!*

AND THEN THE *VIZIER CAUGHT* ME! I WAS SUBJECTED TO UNSPEAKABLE *TORTURE!* I *NEVER* WANT TO GO THERE AGAIN!

LISTEN, MAC! I'VE GOT A *BUDDY* THERE WHO'S GOING THROUGH THE *SAME THING* RIGHT NOW!

YOU MIGHT BE AFRAID TO GO BACK- BUT *I'M* NOT! TROUBLE IS, THE *BOOK* WON'T GIVE UP THE *GOODS!*

=AHHH!= SO THE PAGES REMAIN *BLANK*, EH?

DON'T YOU SEE? IF THE *BOOK'S* NOT WRITING, THE *READER* MUST! *YOU* HAVE TO WRITE YOUR *OWN* CHAPTER!

=HUH?=

NOW *LEAVE ME ALONE!* I'M A *TIRED* OLD MAN WHO'S *LOST* HIMSELF BETWEEN TWO WORLDS!

WRITE MY *OWN* CHAPTER? FOR GOSH SAKES, I'M BEGINNING TO GET IT NOW!

HERE GOES NOTHING! LET'S SEE... "CHAPTER *FOUR!* THE *PROTECTOR* OF *SHAMBOR!*"

"INSTEAD OF A SWORD, THE LIBERATOR TOOK HIS *PEN* IN HAND! HE KNEW THIS WAS THE *ONLY* WAY TO WIN THE DAY!"

"HE LET HIS IMAGINATION BREAK FREE... LIKE A NEWBORN *CHICK* JUST HATCHED FROM ITS *EGG!*" UM...

WHY THE HECK AM I WRITING ABOUT *EGGS?!*

CRACK!

OMIGOSH! I'M IN A GIANT NEST! AN' THESE EGGS- DOGGONE BIG EGGS- ARE... ARE...

=ACK!= HUNGRY CHICKS! AND I'M JUST THE KIND OF MORSEL THAT'LL HIT THE SPOT!

CRIMINY! THIS STARVING BROOD IS GANGING UP!

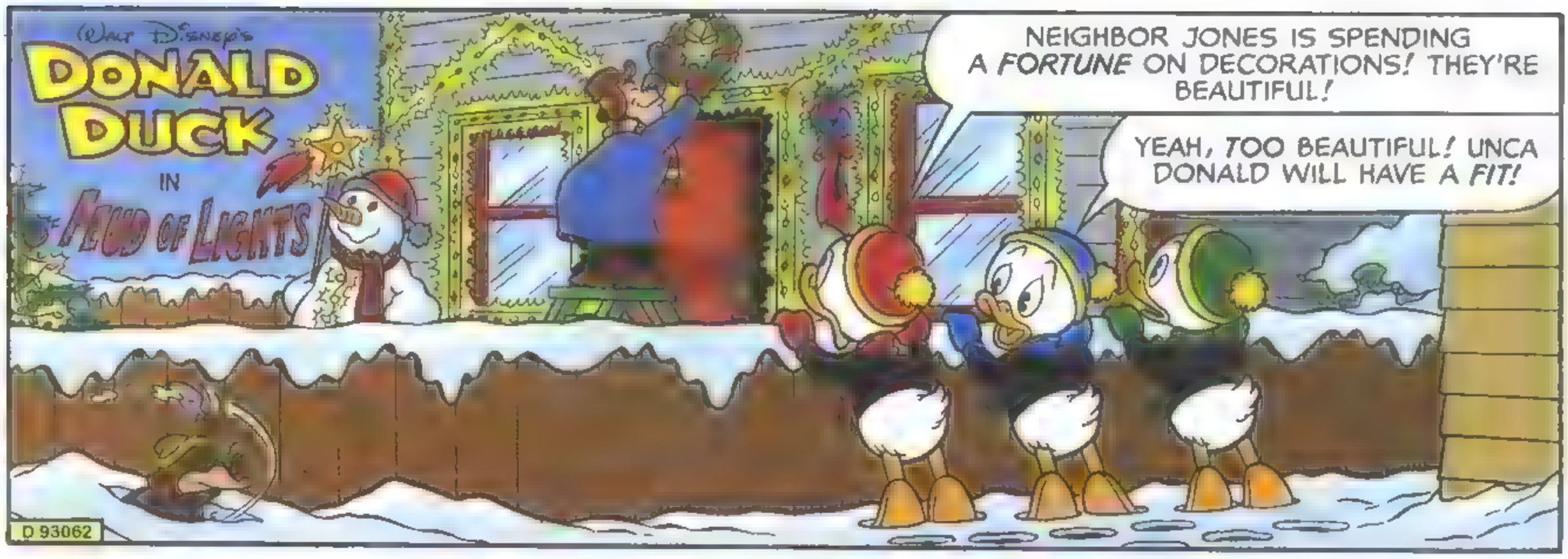
=ULP!= COULD THINGS GET ANY WORSE FOR A MOUSE?!

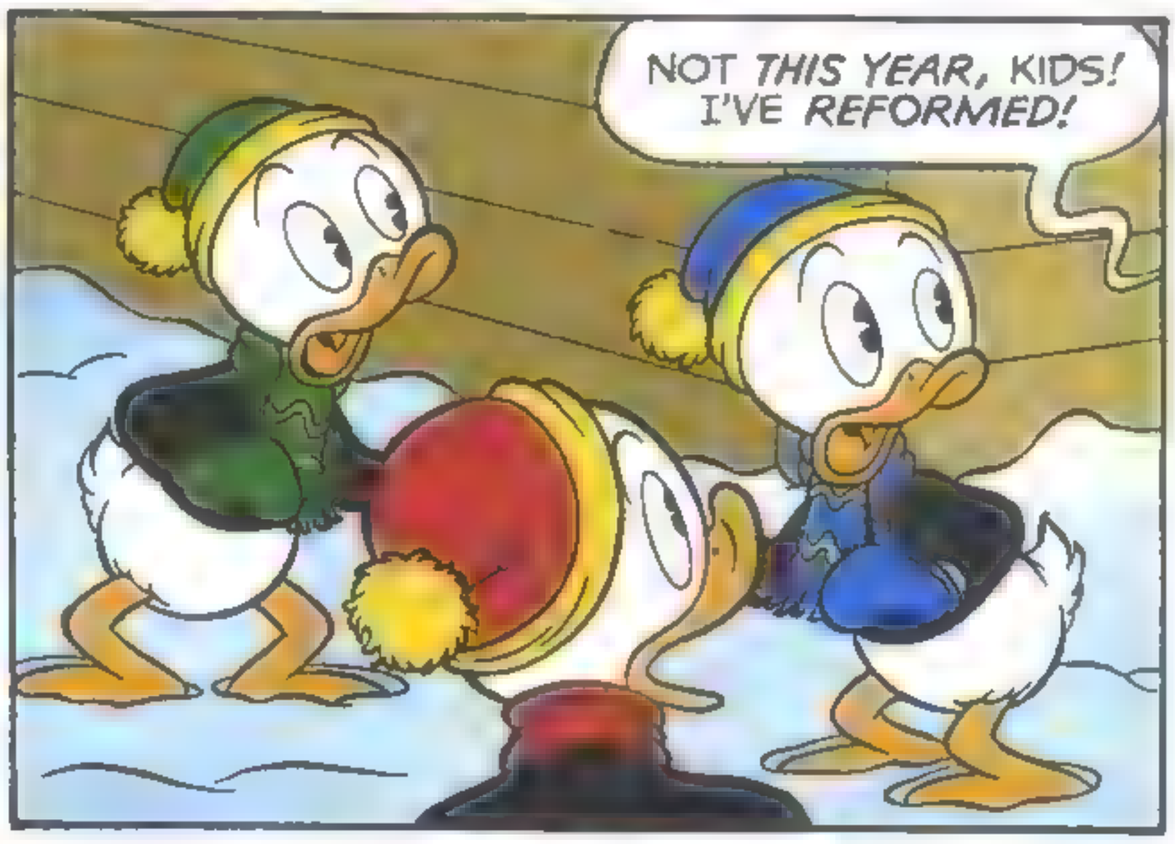
OH, YEAH! LOOKS LIKE MAMA BIRD DOESN'T LIKE ME HANGING WITH HER HATCHLINGS!

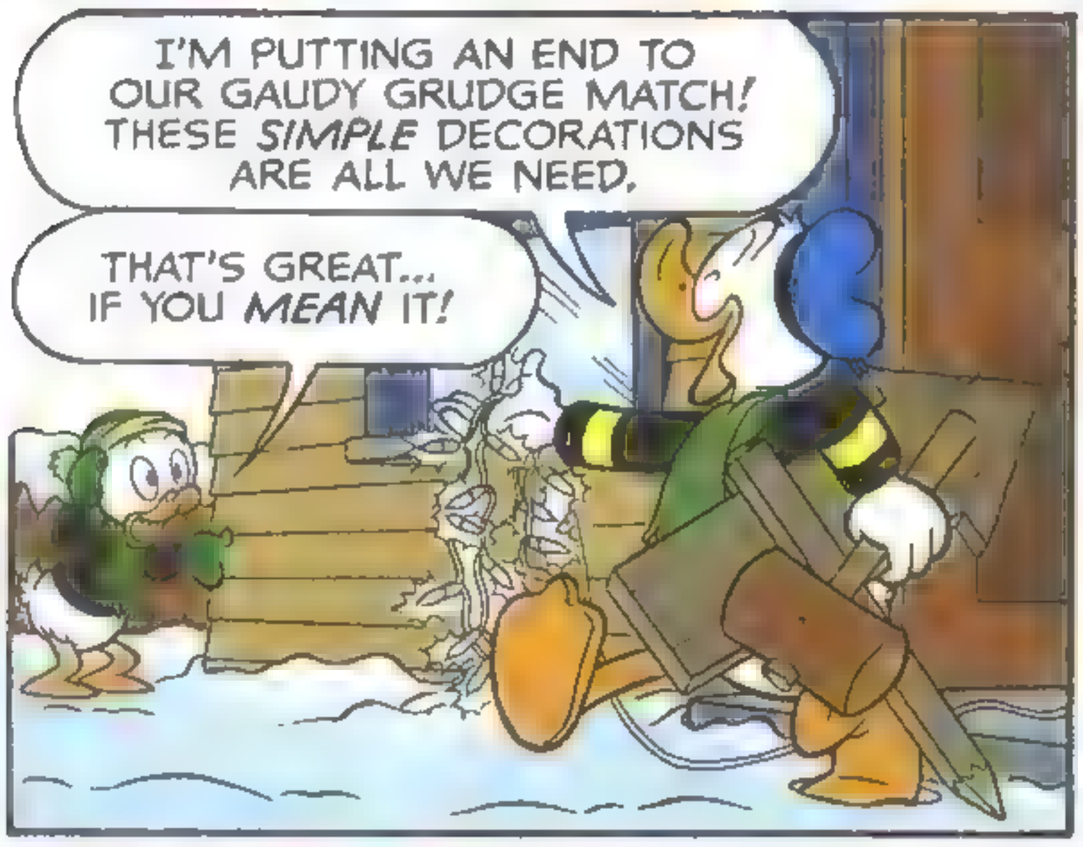
IT SEEMS THAT EVERY TIME I COME BACK TO SHAMBOR, I DISCOVER JUST HOW DANGEROUS THIS WORLD IS!

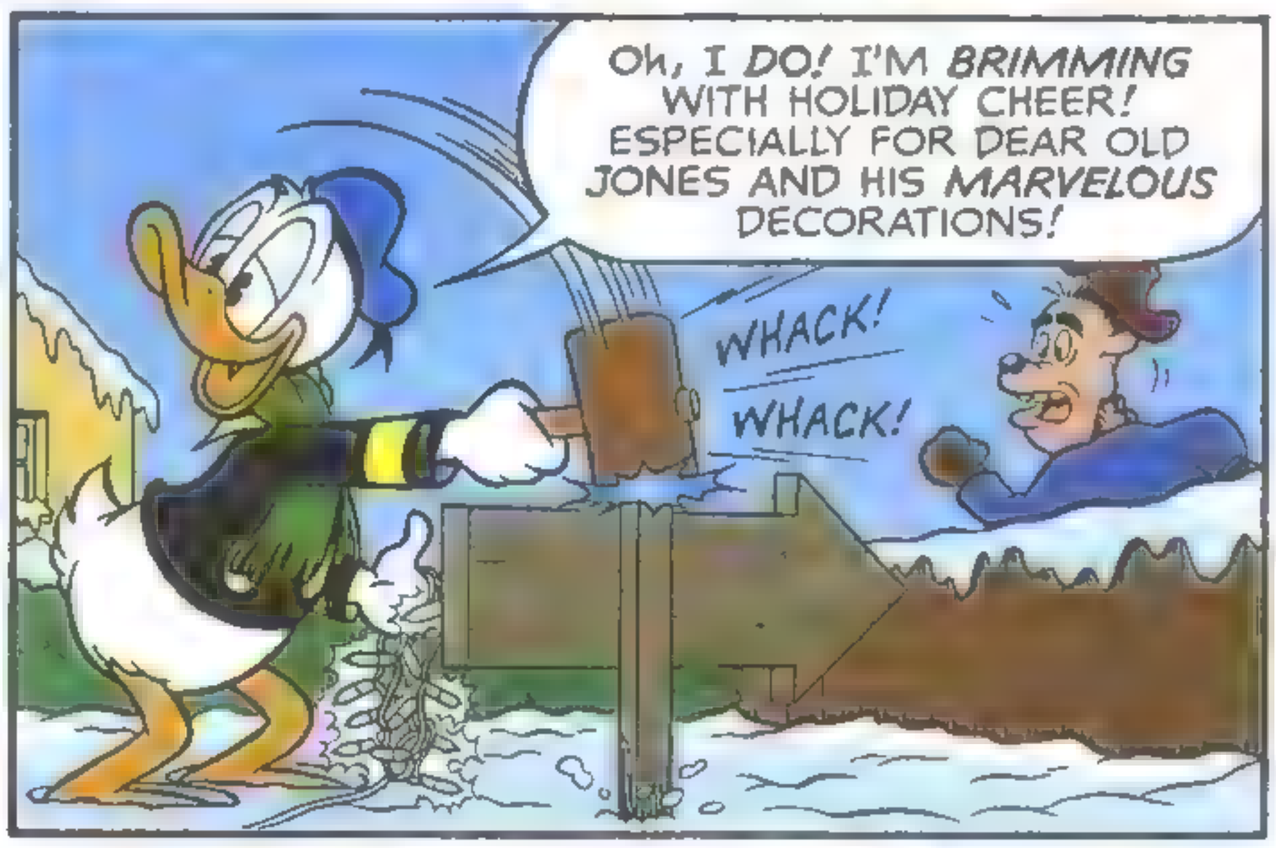
To Be Continued...

Walt Disney's
DONALD DUCK
IN
FEUD OF LIGHTS


NEIGHBOR JONES IS SPENDING A *FORTUNE* ON DECORATIONS! THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL!
YEAH, *TOO* BEAUTIFUL! UNCA DONALD WILL HAVE A *FIT!*
D 93062







'Tis the season to be...

WHAT?!

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THE BIG BAD WOLF CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS WITH THE THREE LITTLE PIGS... AND THEY'RE NOT FOR DINNER!

Confused? So are we! Catch the truth behind the truce in *Walt Disney's Christmas Parade 4*—now available online and at your favorite comic shop! It's an 80-page fun feast with heaps of holiday hams... including Mickey Mouse, Uncle Scrooge, Carl Barks and Floyd Gottfredson. Bring home the bacon with Gemstone this Christmas. Or yule be sorry! (Ouch!)

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"Mickey Mouse just met the cutest little *blonde*... Has *she* got glamour!"—Clarabelle Cow, experiencing an attack of "color-blondeness," from Part Two of Floyd Gottfredson and Merill De Maris' "Love Trouble" in *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* 671.

He met the cutest little... *what?!* Hmm... outside of a possible oblique reference to her name, there seems to be nothing "blonde" about the visiting Millicent Van Gilt-Mouse. Of course, considering that "Love Trouble" began life as a black and white daily newspaper strip, Clarabelle's comment probably never raised the tiniest hair on the collective eyebrows of the original 1941 readership, who presumably took it completely in stride before moving on to *Little Orphan Annie* or *Mutt and Jeff.*

Ah, but who could have foreseen the day when this strip would have transcended the dustbins and paper drives of the day and be reproduced in full color collections to entertain new generations! I first saw "Love Trouble" in the 1979 hardcover collection *Goofy,* published by Abbeville Press. There, though the "blonde" reference remained, Ms. Millicent was given a sort of light tan color, as was Monty. More or less, the same situation prevails with Gemstone's printing, only Millie sports a more grayish look.

However, in the dark recesses of my back issue boxes, lies a 1953 treasure entitled *Mickey Mouse Birthday Party,* a Dell Giant comic issued to commemorate the Mouse's 25th anniversary. Inside are a photo of Walt Disney with an apparent Bill Wright-drawn Mickey on his shoulder, some short stories reprinted from early *Mickey Mouse Four Color* comics, and a "three-tier-per page" reconstruction of "Love Trouble". As expected, Millicent is referred to as "blonde" but, in this case, she actually *is* blonde! That is, except for her clothing, she is *colored yellow* from head to toe!

Looking deeper still, she was also seen this way in an earlier reprint of "Love Trouble" in 1943's *WDC&S* 36-39. One can assume that Millie either drank an overabundance of lemonade prior to stepping on-panel or a sharp-eyed editor or colorist at Dell/Western took note of Clarabelle's line and did the best he or she could under the circumstances.

Over the years, I've seen many strange things—intentional or otherwise—in comic books, but the sight of a completely yellow Disney Mouse may very well take the (cheese) cake!

Oh, more April, May, and June, please! Just don't color them yellow!

—Joe Torcivia
via email

Wow! Thanks for the "Love Trouble" history lesson, Joe. We're going to have to have you start writing guest editorials for us.

William Van Horn's latest offering, "Zenith," in *WDC&S* 671, is one of the better stories I've seen from him in years. Great cast of characters, witty dialogue, impressive artwork, especially on the mountain, and an ending with a twist no one could see coming. We knew the mountain wouldn't be renamed Mt. Donald, but Mt. Itzy Bitzy? Who would have guessed?

Mickey seems to have figured out how to handle that low-down, girl-thieving rat named "Ro-dawn" in the second part of Gottfredson's "Love Trouble." I suspect that *Monsieur* Rodent is going to get what's coming to him, and well does he deserve it. Let's just hope that in the process Mickey and Minnie are able to come to a mutual understanding and end their little squabble.

The Bucky Bug story, "Way Out West," was pretty good, as was Plijnaar's "Heat Wave Wolf," but I confess to disapointment with Pat and Carol McGreal's "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" and the conclusion to Per Erik Hedman's "Formula One" series. The former left the utterly cheated Huey, Dewey, and Louie admiring April, May, and June; somehow it seems out of character for the girls to be such tricksters, or for the boys to be so quickly forgiving, considering the humiliation they underwent. The latter story, while it started off several issues ago with a bang, ended with a whimper. The plot lagged, the dialogue wasn't as sharp, the gags not as funny. I suppose in fairness it was still a decent story, but I had anticipated so much more.

—Robert Hutchings
via email

As you know by now, all ended well for Mickey and Minnie in "Love Trouble." Now enjoy our Foreign Legion adventure.

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and/or content.
We regret we cannot respond to individual letters; however questions of general interest will be answered in our letters column.
QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS OR BACK ISSUES? Contact Angie Meyer at mangie@diamondcomics.com
Please do not send subscription, back issue or submission queries to the letters column address. Thank you!

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AVALANCHE!!! The Abominable Snowman, Mr. Freeze, Frosty, Snow Miser, the Wampa, Iceman, Captain Cold, and many more of your favorite characters are snowbound in this blizzard of fun info and facts. So, stay on top on what's cool and visit the winter wonderland of comic characters waiting for you every week in the free e-newsletter ***Scoop***.

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Walt Disney's Comics and Stories #675, Dec 2006

Donald Duck: Snow Job
Gyro: War of the Wizards; The Orb Saga pt. 5
Mickey Mouse Joins the Foreign Legion pt. 1
The Phantom Blot: The Orb Saga pt. 6
Mickey Mouse: The Protector of Shambor pt. 1
Donald Duck: Feud of Lights